Ping to prove plot to pin Dacer case on him

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 5

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001 ★★ 30 PAGES 2 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 116 ₱15

Gloria orders: Annihilate Abu

BY DONNA S. CUETO
AND JONATHAN F. MA,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

"PURSUE and annihilate them."

So did President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday order the military to go on an "all-out war" against the Abu Sayyaf and to rescue its

GLORIA/ A14

Imee: We know nothing of Irene trip

BY KIRA ESPINO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—Although Irene Marcos-Araneta is under investigation for alleged money laundering by Philippine, German and Swiss authorities, the Marcos family has discussed nei-

IMEE/ A14

4 more witnesses to talk in drug case

Punzalan: It's like I killed all my 5 kids

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

"I HAVE five children. If I did these things, it would be like I had killed them all," Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan said as he denied allegations that he was involved in the illegal drug trade in his province.

Punzalan and members of his family went to the INQUIRER office yesterday to deny Jonathan Perpiñan's allegation that he protected suspected drug lord Atelino "Athel" Alcala in distributing drugs in Quezon.

In Lucena City, Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, Quezon police chief, wept like a child when he was shown at 2 a.m. yesterday the Internet printout of the INQUIRER detailing his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade in the province.

"This false report will surely end my police career. The whole period that I was protecting the integrity and honor of my name and my chosen career would now go down the drain all because of the baseless and unfounded allegations of one psychotic person," Alejandrino said.

Perpiñan said Alejandrino was one of the protectors of the drug syndicate in Quezon.

Punzalan accused his political opponents of using Perpiñan to demolish the candidacy of his wife, who is running for the seat he is vacating.

Punzalan's wife Lynnette said copies of the INQUIRER banner story had been photocopied and were being distributed in the province by

PUNZALAN/ A14

'It's just tip of the iceberg'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND CHRISTINE HERRERA

FOUR more witnesses are set to come out in the open to testify against Quezon drug lord Atilano "Athel" Alcala, the Catholic priest, who helped Jonathan Perpiñan expose Alcala's drug trafficking, yesterday said.

"One of them is a woman who knows Alcala's activities intimately," Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez said of the new witnesses.

Perpiñan, 26, has also accused Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan, Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. and provincial police director Charlemagne Alejandrino of working, with Alcala in his drug business. All have denied helping Alcala in the drug trade.

A team from the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headed by Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto is verifying Perpiñan's allegations, the PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, said.

"It's just the tip of the iceberg. This will be unlike the other previous campaigns against drugs that were launched with great fanfare, but turned out to be publicity gimmicks," Enriquez told the INQUIRER during a picket at the ABS-CBN Channel 2 compound in Quezon City.

Enriquez and running priest Robert Reyes picketed Channel 2 to protest the nonshowing by Noli de Castro's "Magandang Gabi Bayan's" investigation of the 365 kilos of *shabu* (methamphet-

4 MORE/ A14

DENNIS SABANGAN

DOING a Chavit Singson, Jonathan Perpiñan is under wraps as he arrives at the justice department with Fr. Robert Reyes.

LACSON
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AKBAYAN PARTY LIST

IS HE or isn't he? Non-believers of senatorial aspirant, Panfilo Lacson, like members of Akbayan (above) picket his campaign headquarters on Shaw Boulevard on Monday while on the same day Lacson's true believers, 15 former kidnap-for-ransom victims and their families led by Robina Gokongwei-Pe (2nd from right) rescued by the former PNP chief, hold a press conference to express full support for him. EDWIN BACASMAS

Witness against Lacson turns around

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

HE THOUGHT he had the goods on former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson.

But now the witness of military intelligence head Victor Corpus has turned around and recanted his statements regarding the involvement of police officials in kidnap-for-ransom cases and the killing of suspected drug lords.

Senior Insp. Medel Poñe who Corpus said had gone to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) headquarters to reveal what he knew about the kidnap ring has filed charges against Corpus before the military ombudsman, claiming he was coerced by the Isafp chief into making the revelations.

Poñe had reportedly tagged Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman as the head of the "clean-up crew" that was in charge of disposing of the bodies of persons kidnapped and killed by a ring allegedly led by Lacson.

Corpus described Villaroman as "a close associate" of Lacson.

Lacson headed the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) while he was director general of the Philippine National Police. He has since resigned the posts and is running for a Senate

WITNESS/ A4

'Kabayan': All we had was hearsay

BY AQUILES Z. ZONIO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—No one was willing to talk on camera, prompting ABS-CBN's weekly program "Magandang Gabi Bayan" not to air the interviews with residents of Sariaya, Quezon, who helped the military seize 365 kilos of *shabu* last year, senatorial candidate Noli "Kabayan" de Castro yesterday said here.

"Even what the priest had said was hearsay because he was not an eyewitness," the former ABS-CBN broadcaster said in a press conference.

De Castro was referring to Fr. Raul Enriquez, the social action director of the Diocese of Quezon, who said he would ask the Department of Justice and two suspected drug lords to shed light on the drug trafficking business of Atilano "Athel" Alcala, allegedly Quezon's most powerful drug lord.

Enriquez said De Castro should be summoned because the crew of his TV program did not air the story about the biggest drug haul last year.

De Castro countered that Enriquez complained about the nonairing of the interviews and video footage taken from Sariaya because he wanted to see himself on television.

The priest noted that witnesses had feared for their lives after the MGB crew went around looking for them to get interviews.

KABAYAN/ A14

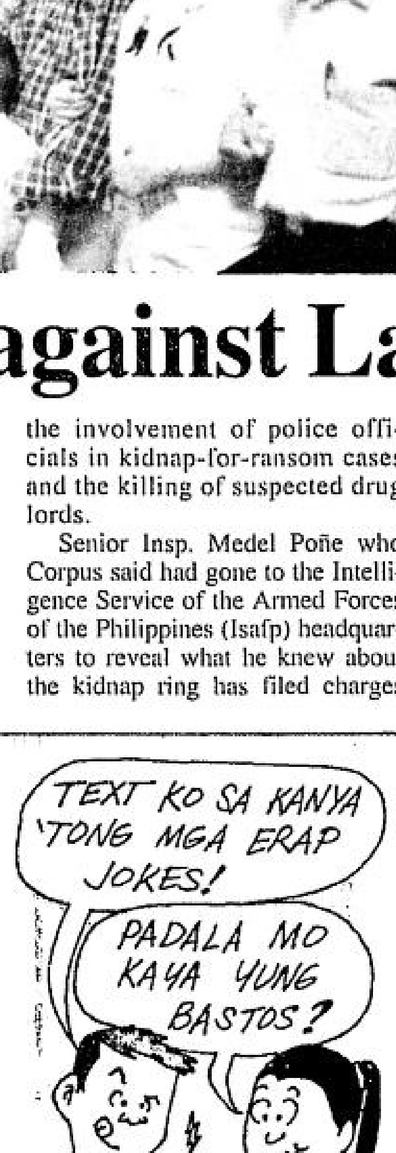
Text Gloria, but don't wait for a reply

BY DONNA S. CUETO

"TEXTERS" can now send messages even to the President of the Philippines.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday launched the "TXT GMA" program that would provide people "direct access" to her office through "texting,"

TEXT/ A4


TEXT KO SA KANYA 'TONG MGA ERAP JOKES!
PADALA MO KAYA YUNG BASTOS?

Ping to prove conspiracy to pin Dacer case on him

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN,
MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson will present witnesses "to prove that there is an orchestrated (government) conspiracy" to pin the alleged murder of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer both on himself and ousted President Joseph Estrada, according to Lacson's campaign manager, Angelito Banayo.

Estrada, for his part, said that Dacer, a publicist who worked with many politicians, had offered him his services two days before the PR man was allegedly abducted by armed men and later strangled.

At a meeting in Malacañang on Nov. 22, Dacer offered his PR services to Estrada and even submitted a proposal to Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, an ally of the former president, Estrada claimed.

PING/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

H'WAG NA KAYONG MAGDUDA!

PEACE TALKS WITH MILF

Gloria appeals for trust in gov't

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the people of Mindanao to trust the government in its peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"I appeal to the people of Mindanao," the President said in a press briefing at the Palace. "Peace is not a one-way street. Everyone must be imbued with a sense of justice, tolerance and understanding in a region of such diversity as our beloved island of Mindanao."

She added: "Peace will be served the collective welfare. Bear with us. Trust us. We have nothing but your security and well-being in mind."

Ms Macapagal also issued the assurance that the Armed Forces had "expressed its full support to our efforts toward peace."

"Our soldiers are not war-mongers and detractors of peace," she said. "Our soldiers are professionals, peace-loving and patriotic Filipinos."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, while also calling for "mutual trust" between the government and MILF negotiating panels, said former MILF camps would be closely watched to ensure that the infrastructure projects there would not be turned into military bunkers.

"That is not going to happen again. The President has given specific instructions that we should not allow those things to happen," Reyes told the INQUIRER in reference to National Irrigation Administration projects that the MILF had turned into fortified bunkers.

Reyes also stressed that there would be no return of camps to the MILF "because there are no camps and there will be no camps."

"The camps have been overrun (by government troops), and what we are talking about are development efforts. We have to stop talking about camps because no camps will be returned," he said.

Last year, government forces overran all 46 MILF camps, including Camp Abubakar, its general headquarters. Ms Macapagal has pointed out that these areas were communities, not military installations.

At Camp Aguinaldo, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim said the government would not pull out its troops from the former MILF camps.

He said this decision was reached in a command conference that Ms Macapagal presided over yesterday.

Calimlim, however, said civilians were free to return to these areas.

Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, said MILF soldiers and their families had returned to their former camps, minus a "military component."

"They are there, but not in the manner they were before," he told the INQUIRER.

Ermita said the government had no plans to seize their firearms "at the moment."

In the long haul, what we want is for them to voluntarily lay down their firearms and involve themselves in development efforts," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged the government to allow only legitimate residents to return to Camp Abubakar.

"If the government intends to return the area to (the people there), it must return it to the lawful and legal claimants," Biazon said at a news conference.

Otherwise, he said, this might "authorize the presence of armed groups in the camp complex." *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño*

MILF won't drop secession bid yet

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front will consult the Bangsa Moro people on whether they will accept autonomy in favor of an independent Moro state in the South, its spokesperson Eid Kabalu said yesterday.

He said that until the Bangsa Moro say so, the MILF would not abandon its struggle for secession.

Kabalu was reacting to a statement by President Macapagal-Arroyo that it was her "perception" that the MILF was no longer fighting for secession.

"Eventually, we will be consulting the Bangsa Moro people on whether to agree to the government offer and abandon secessionism," Kabalu told reporters in a phone interview from his base in Mindanao.

"In the end, they (the people) will have the final say," he said.

The MILF has declared a ceasefire starting today, as part of confidence-building measures toward the resumption of peace negotiations with the government.

According to Kabalu, the truce will last "until an accord is reached with the (Macapagal) administration."

Kabalu stressed that the MILF was intent on conducting "free-flowing" negotiations that "should not be limited to the Constitution."

He said the President's statements were only serving to limit the framework of the peace talks and were "preemptive of the results of the forthcoming negotiations."

He also pointed out that when representatives of the government and the MILF met recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and agreed on the resumption of the peace talks, the issue of whether the MILF would drop its secessionist struggle was not discussed.

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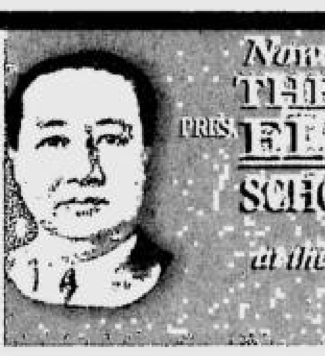

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Oust Erap men from SMC, tribunal asked

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE GOVERNMENT formally asked the Supreme Court yesterday to order the ouster of five appointees of former President Joseph Estrada from the board of San Miguel Corp.

A 34-page petition signed by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had already named the replacements of the Estrada appointees but that they refused to vacate their seats in the SMC board.

Representatives of the Presidential Commission on Good Government have been occupying five seats in the SMC board since 1986.

They vote the SMC shares registered in the names of 14 Coconut Industry Investment Fund companies and believed to have been purchased with coconut levy funds by SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

The legality of the purchase of the shares using coconut levy money is being debated until now. Cause-oriented groups have urged the high court to decide "with finality" whether Cojuangco's act was legal or not.

Marcelo said the government was compelled to file the petition because "it has now been unlawfully deprived of the right to be represented in the SMC board" because of the refusal of Estrada's allies to vacate the seats.

These include Estrada brother-in-law Raul de Guzman; Hermogenes Tantoco, husband of the former first lady's chief of staff; Allan Lee, said to be a business partner of Estrada mistress Guia Gomez; movie producer Esperidion Laxa; and Ben Paulino, said to be a close friend of Estrada.

In their place, Ms Macapagal has named former Social Security System president Renato Valencia, former Far East Bank president OV Espiritu, former Justice Hector Hofilena, Franklin Fuentebella and Leo Alvez.

Protesters massing in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Key players of the movement that ousted Joseph Estrada started trooping to this city yesterday in anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling on the two petitions filed by the disgraced leader.

The tribunal is expected to issue today its final ruling on the petitions questioning the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and seeking immunity from criminal and civil suits.

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, party-list group Bayan Muna, and Council for Philippine Affairs warned that any "win-win" solution to the issue would spark massive protests similar to the events that led to People Power II.

"The Supreme Court could spin a workable solution that would satisfy the fetish of both camps—Macapagal-Arroyo legitimizing her presidency and Estrada winning his bid for immunity against plunder and criminal raps—and this could be the first national betrayal in the post-Estrada era," Bayan Muna said in a statement.

About 200 Manila-based activists set off from Quezon City Memorial Circle at about 8 a.m. yesterday in a 10-vehicle caravan dubbed "Sakbayan para sa Katarungan."

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Army hit for raids

DAVAO CITY—Farmers and human rights activists yesterday accused the Army of turning several communities in the Davao Oriental town of Cateel into "virtual garrisons" where residents are prevented from leaving and the entry of food and other supplies is regulated.

The Army has dismissed these complaints as "counter-propaganda" by the New People's Army, which it said had a strong influence over villages in the hinterlands of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

The military has been conducting bombing raids and ground operations in the area since Saturday, apparently after it learned that the Southern Mindanao regional party committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines had held a plenum there.

The Army's 701st Brigade said soldiers had overrun the main camp of the NPA's Front 20 in Barangay Aliwagwag in Cateel.

Residents of the barangay, however, complained that soldiers from the 60th Infantry Battalion mauled several village residents when they failed to provide any information on the location of NPA camps.

Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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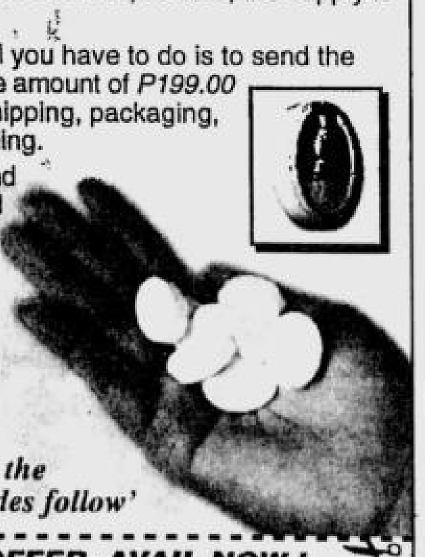

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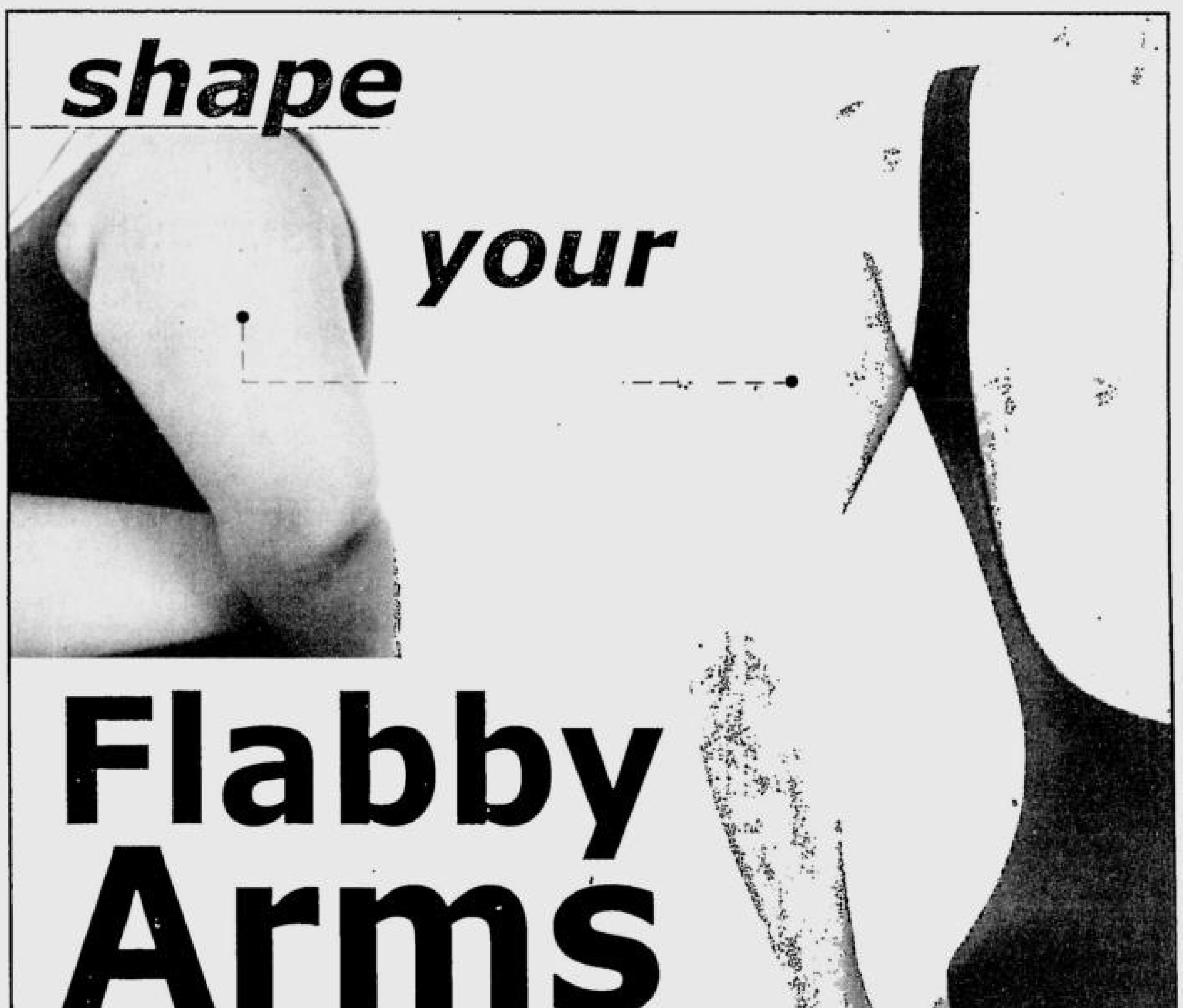

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Witness against Lacson turns around

(From page A1)

sent in the May 14 elections.

Villaroman was the superior of Poñe who had reportedly revealed to Corpus how the kidnappings and killings were carried out.

Corpus said kidnappings were usually carried out by three separate sub-groups as "a security measure to mislead investigating agencies."

"The first group was the surveillance group, the second the abduction group and the last the clean-up crew," Corpus said.

Yesterday Poñe told a news conference that Corpus and former PAOCTF agent Mary Ong had pressured him into linking Lacson and his subordinates to kidnap-for-ransom cases and the killing of suspected drug traffickers.

Threats

Poñe said Corpus and Ong met with him separately and both threatened to kill him if he refused to cooperate with them.

He said Corpus and Ong wanted him to tag Lacson and Director Reynaldo Acop, former Narcotics Command (Narcom) chief, as the brains behind the kidnapping and killing of members of Chinese drug syndicates.

Poñe denied any role in abductions and killings allegedly on orders of Lacson and Acop.

He said Ong promised to give him P5 million in exchange for his cooperation and assured him of the safety of his family.

Ong, he said, also told him she would introduce him to Corpus who was heading the investigation into the kidnap and murder cases.

Poñe said that on March 28, Corpus met with him at a fast-food restaurant in Cabanatuan City.

At that meeting, he said, Corpus threatened to kill him if he refused to cooperate with the investigation.

'Clean-up crew'

Fearing for his life, Poñe said he decided to go public and file charges of grave threats, grave coercion, illegal use of public funds and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act against Corpus and Ong before the Office of the Ombudsman for Military Affairs.

According to Corpus and Ong, however, Poñe was a member of the "clean-up crew" of the kidnap ring.

"The modus operandi was to chop the bodies to pieces, burn them and crush the remains into powder so that in the event of a trial, the prosecution would find it very hard to establish a 'corpus delecti,'" Corpus said.

The clean-up group is also known in police circles as the "biyahero group," meaning if they took a victim out for a "trip," he was not coming back.

Corpus said this "despicable task" was "assigned" to Poñe by Villaroman.

Corpus' description gibes with the theory of the National Bureau of Investigation on the abduction of public relations specialist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, in November last year.

The NBI said Dacer's movements were monitored by one group of PAOCTF operatives before he was abducted by another group, then killed and burned by a third group.

Corpus said Poñe's group had chopped up "several" other kidnap victims.

Strangled

Both Corpus and Ong said Poñe was also allegedly involved in the strangulation of a suspected drug lord, Calvin Wong.

Corpus said Poñe apparently learned of Isafp's efforts to reopen kidnapping and murder cases allegedly committed by the PAOCTF and went to intelligence headquarters on Feb. 19.

"I told him the best way to get out of this mess was to become a witness against the group," Corpus said. "I also promised to protect him and his family as well as provide him with a job."

Corpus said it was Poñe who "begged" for the meeting in Cabanatuan City. He said the meeting was secretly taped by Poñe and his group.

"The reason they were able to record our conversation was because I entered a controlled territory," Corpus said.

Corpus said harsh words were uttered during the meeting, but this "should be viewed in the context that I was dealing with a very shrewd and dangerous man who does not recognize the sanctity of life."

'A setup'

Late yesterday, Ong, who herself had accused Lacson and his subordinates of involvement in the abduction and killing of suspected Chinese drug traffickers, called Poñe's turnaround "a setup."

She said the reason Poñe was not included as a suspect in the killing of kidnap-for-ransom victims was because he had promised to spill the beans on Lacson and Acop.

"On Feb. 12, I met with Poñe and he asked me if I could arrange a meeting with Corpus and on the 19th they met. Now he is singing a different tune," Ong told the INQUIRER.

Ong said she suspected that Lacson's group was behind Poñe's about-face.

While Lacson appears to have a fight on his hands, now that he is no longer the top police official and especially since he is running for a Senate seat, one group was unanimous in their support for him.

Kidnap victims

"If it were not for Ping, we would not be here today."

This was the verdict of kidnap-for-ransom victims who held a press conference at Club Filipino yesterday to express their support for Lacson.

The group led by Robina Gokongwei-Pe said they had nothing but trust and admiration for Lacson, "who is the target of an administration-orchestrated smear campaign."

"We came here on a personal note. We want to tell the people that we owe Ping our lives because he rescued us from our abductors," Gokongwei-Pe said.

Gokongwei-Pe, a daughter of business tycoon John Gokongwei, was rescued by Lacson 20 years ago when he was a lieutenant colonel in the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Gokongwei-Pe said she will continue to tell her story for the rest of her life.

Fifteen other kidnap victims, some of them represented by relatives, attended the press conference.

Aside from Gokongwei-Pe, the rescued victims who attended were William Soriano, Eric Teng, Ruiz Co, Elsie Lee, Teofilo Garcia, S.L. Caleon, Philip Chan, Lawrence Sobremonte, Daisy Medina, Carlos Siu, Lulu Hodreal, Elvira Ouyen, Lucia Chua and 5-year-old Kenneth Medina.

They were unanimous in saying that Lacson was their savior and that he never asked them for a single centavo in return for their rescue.

Text Gloria, but don't wait for a reply

(From page A1)

or sending of text messages by telephone.

But don't expect Ms Macapagal herself to receive your text messages, much less text you back.

It is her staff, particularly the Special Information Technology Team of the Presidential Management Staff, which will screen and collate the text messages.

Malacañang can receive complaints and requests for assistance through six cellular telephone numbers provided by telecommunications giants Globe Telecom and Smart Communications. The staff will access the text messages on computers linked to the cellular phones.

A Palace press statement said that messages received by Malacañang would get a response from the President herself or would be referred to appropriate agencies for action. In some cases, the reply will be texted back to the sender.

The Globe numbers are: 0917-TEXTGMA (0917-8398462), 0917-TXT-2-GMA (0917-8982462) and 0917-TXT-K-GMA (09178985462). The Smart numbers are 0919-TXT-GMA-1 (0919-8984621), 0919-TXT-GMA-2 (0919-8984622) and 0919-TXT-GMA-3 (0919-8984623).

Ms Macapagal admitted during a press briefing yesterday that she was not really into texting.

"*Alam mo kasi, hindi ako mahilig mag*-text (You know, I am not fond of texting), otherwise I'll get addicted," she said.

"I have so much work to do. And so much of the text messages anyway are really frivolous. But I do receive a lot of text messages from my Cabinet members," she said.

"So I receive but I don't text," she added.

Malacañang said the "TEXT GMA" project was the "first of its kind to use high technology to (respond to) the people's needs."

It said this would result in "greater transparency and accountability in government, as well as ensure continuous consultation with the people."

Ms Macapagal witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Executive Secretary Renato de Villa for Malacañang and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala for Globe and Anastacio Martirez for Smart.

The TXT-GMA center is based at the Presidential Action Center and will operate seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Date: April 4 - 6, 2001

PROGRAMME

Day 1

12:30 - 1:30 PM REGISTRATION
1:30 - 3:30 PM OPENING CEREMONIES (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
Entrance Parade
Invocation
National Anthem
Declaration of Opening of the Conference
Welcome Remarks
Opening Remarks
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
Keynote Address
Topic: "An Indubitable Truth: Youth as Hope of the Motherland."
Speaker: *Mr. Federico Marquez, Jr., FPM*
Awarding of Plaque
3:30 - 5:30 PM FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES (Sr. Caridad Barrion Hall)
DEBATE
Topic: "What is an Ideal Leader?"

Day 2

9:30 - 11:00 AM PLENARY SESSION 1 (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
Topic: "Filipino Ethical Values: Assets and Liabilities"
Speaker: *Mr. Jose Ma. Arcadio Malbarosa*
11:00 - 12:00 PM LUNCH
12:00 - 1:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (St. Scholastica's Bldg.)
Topic 1: "The Art of Empowering People"
Speaker: *Mr. Ernesto Espinosa*
Topic 2: "What kind of a Leader are you?"
Speaker: *Ms. Sylvia Duque*
Topic 3: "HR Trends and Threats"
Speaker: *Mr. Gerardo Plana*
1:30 - 2:00 PM GROUP MEETING
2:00 - 3:00 PM SYNOPSIS (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
3:00 - 3:30 PM BREAK (Sr. Caridad Barrion Hall)
3:30 - 5:00 PM PLENARY SESSION 2 (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
Topic: "e-pipol@jpmap"
Speaker: *Mr. Schubert Caesar Austero*

Day 3

9:30 - 11:00 PM PLENARY SESSION 3 (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
Topic: "Of Becoming a Leader"
Speaker: *Mr. Jorge Arboleda*
11:00 - 11:30 PM BREAK
11:30 - 1:30 PM CLOSING CEREMONIES (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
Topic: "The Essence of True Leadership"
Speaker: *Mr. Barbie Atienza, FPM*
1:30 - 2:30 PM BREAK (Sr. Caridad Barrion Hall)
2:30 - 4:30 PM JPMAP Annual Meeting (St. Erhentrudis Hall)
4:30 - 6:00 PM FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES (Sr. Caridad Barrion Hall)

Registration Fee is at *P650.00 for members* and *P800.00 for non-members.*

For Registration you may contact teh PMAP Secretariat Office located at #670 Lee St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. Through telephone nos.: 726-1532; 726-1566, or fax no.: 726-1530, and look for Ms. Agnes Escano, JPMAP Coordinator.

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	Session 2	Counselling
April 6	Session 1	Presentation
	Session 2	Counselling
April 7	Session 1	Drawing Test
	Session 2	Interview
April 8	Session 1	Interview

Session 1 starts at 9:30 AM and Session 2 at 2:00 PM

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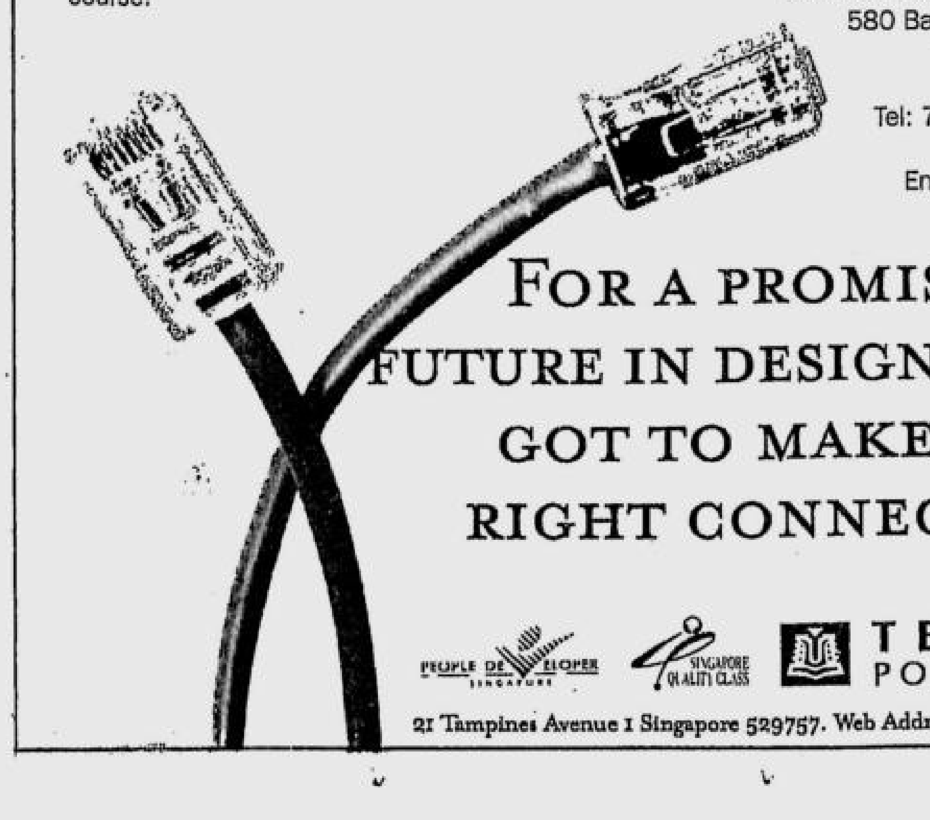

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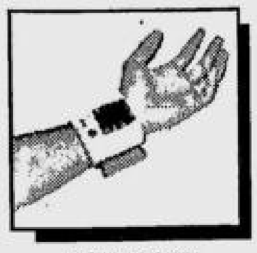

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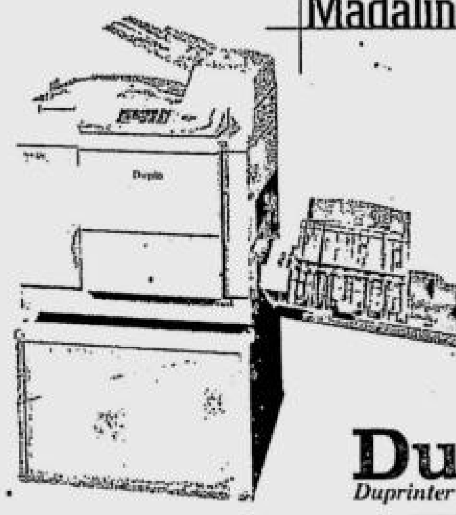

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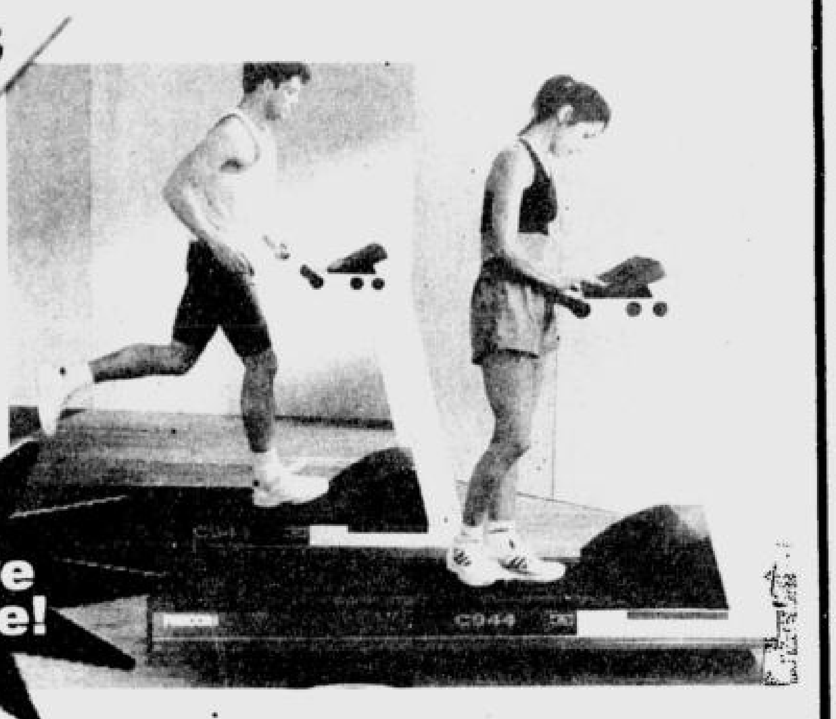

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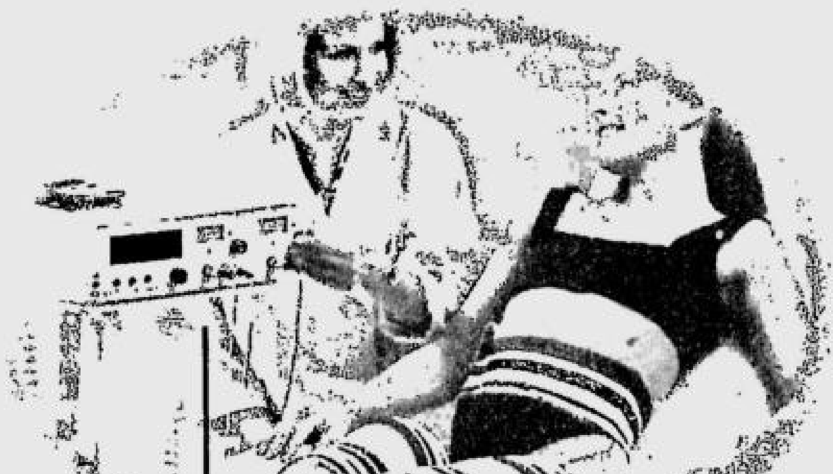

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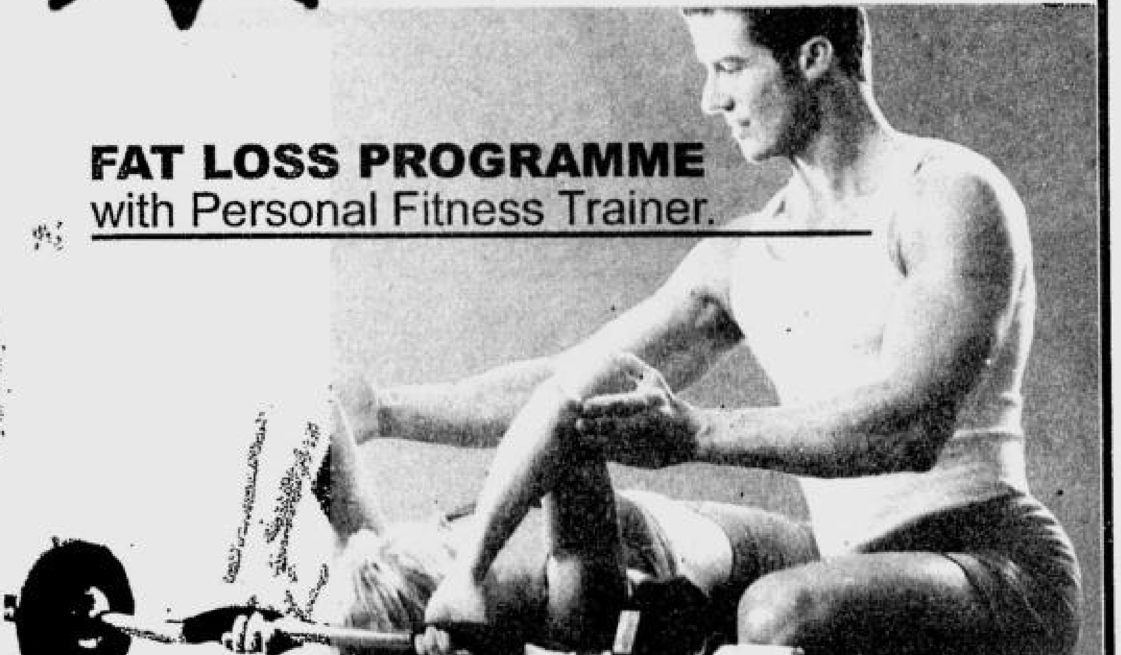

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OPINION

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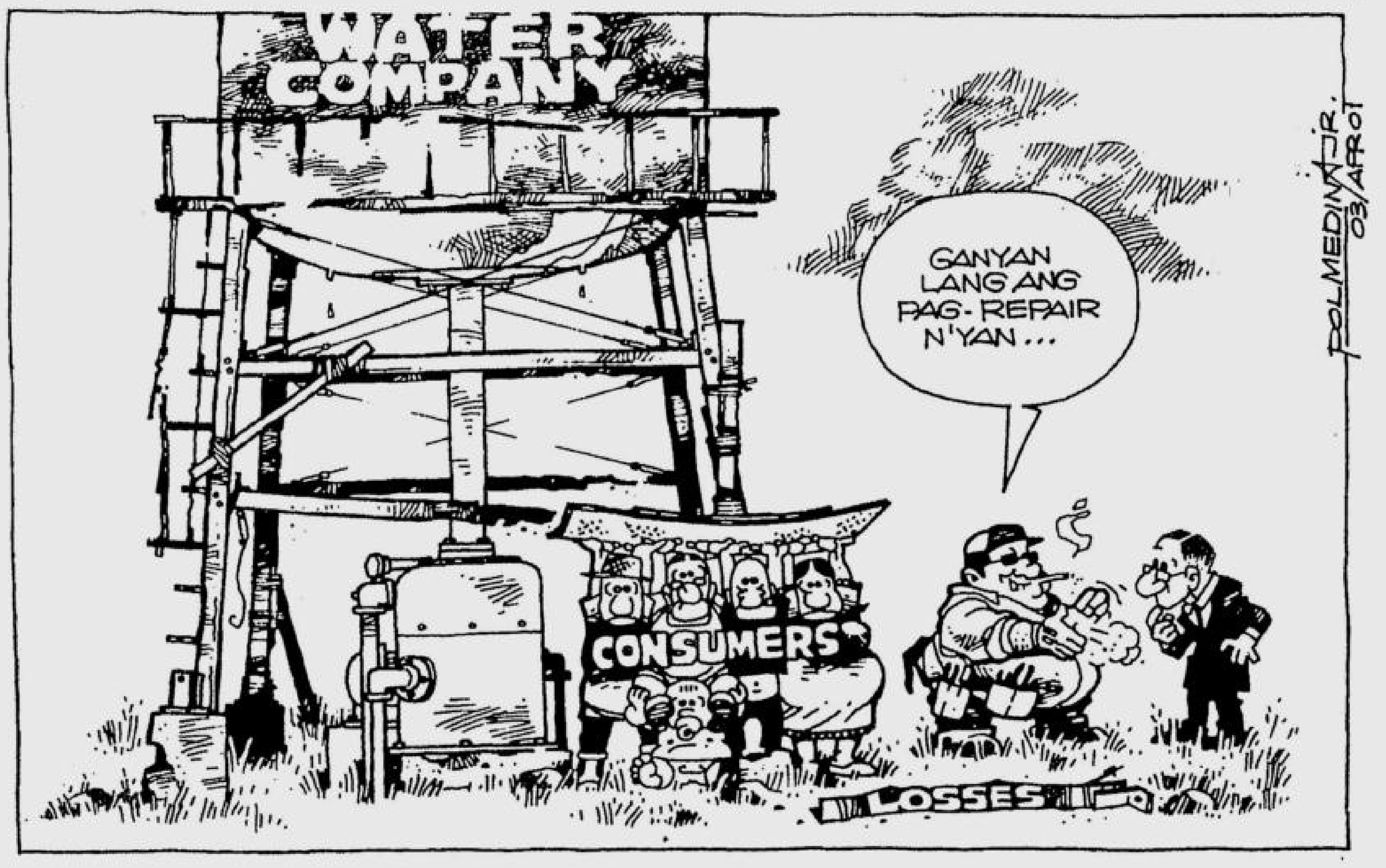


The issue is issues

EDITORIAL

WHAT is disappointing so far about covering the election campaign is that it lacks substance. It's the same song-and-dance (literally) routine, the mudslinging tactics, the appearances of candidates wearing bright, solid colors (on the advice of image makers), the thrill of the race itself and of course, the dominance of entertainment celebrities to attract a crowd and sustain their attention.

Which does not only describe the conduct of the campaign of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa. The administration's People Power Coalition is just as guilty despite President Macapagal's declaration of the advent of "new politics." The PPC whose candidates are the main beneficiaries of Edsa II should know better and is expected to act accordingly to set a high tone for the campaign.

In its grand proclamation rally last Sunday, President Macapagal reiterated that "good governance is the banner of People Power II and it is what the leadership and candidates of the PPC represent."

That's great. Yet the very manner in which the PPC conducts its campaign negates that presidential pronouncement. Nowhere is the PPC campaign any nearer to being representative of the people at Edsa. And, besides, what are the tangible specifics of good governance? The senatorial candidates more than a month after going on high-gear campaigning have yet to spell it out on platforms around the country. Sure, we know what their names stand for ("Vot for D'Chammps"). That's just it. The campaign is deteriorating into a game of name recall. But what does each candidate stand for? Once elected to the Senate, how are the candidates going to address the concerns of the citizens? Sure, the integrity and achievement record of every candidate must be checked out by the voters. But so are his or her positions on the concerns of the citizens.

The INQUIRER is trying to redirect this increasingly frustrating election campaign into an issues-driven, citizens-based campaign. The past three Sundays, the INQUIRER has been running a series of issues derived from consultations with various sectors from, for instance, environmental and women groups to senior citizens to the gay crowd. We'll run the citizens' issues/concerns until we've covered all sectors representative of the entire country. We started with a focus group attended by 22 representatives from various sectors. They talked. We listened.

The idea is to try to pin down the national candidates on their positions on specific issues. For instance, on the issue of what to do with deposed President Estrada. His own wife, Loi Ejercito-Estrada who's running for senator, said that she still believes in the justice system "even if the Supreme Court decision based only on a diary, stripped him of the presidency." Predictable but she provided an issue-specific answer. On the issue of cross-dressing in government offices, Pwersa candidate Ombra Tamano replied that he doesn't believe in it based on his culture and religion. Pinpointing positions adds substance to the campaign, and makes it more exciting.

So far, the concern of the voters that keeps cropping up in the INQUIRER's "Voters Voice" section is poverty. In its sweeping broadness, that's like a candidate saying he's for "good governance" and against poverty. So, candidates are going to be asked about the specifics of poverty like job generation, the unrealistic minimum wage, contractualization, retiree's' and veterans' pensions, etc.

While the senatorial candidates will have to be pinned down on a wide array of worrisome issues, the local candidates in Metro Manila will be asked basically about only four problems: squatters, garbage, crime, traffic. One or two additional issues specific to certain Metro areas will be asked candidates such as flooding in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Taguig. Or, prostitution in Pasay City and Quezon City.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is running the profiles of the senatorial aspirants. The Metro Section regularly carries the profiles of the Metro candidates for mayors and congressmen. Across the Nation will do the same thing for the provincial candidates. These are all just short getting-to-know-you features.

For the good stuff about the candidates, we'll have to hear from the candidates themselves. The INQUIRER has also allotted space for the so-called "praise" releases in "Campaign Trail" in the Metro, Across the Nation and Second Front Page Sections. To be fair, the paper will try to accommodate the releases and photos of all accredited candidates. The less-exposed candidates are given preference over others who've been previously published.

We may be banging our heads against the wall for trying to push for an electoral campaign that's truly meaningful to the electorate and the country. But we'll keep trying.

The making of a sex movie

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I FINALLY got to see a videotape of "Live Show" and I agree with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that it is soft porn. Sure, you can say that it exposes a social cancer, the exploitation of toros and toreras, victims of the sex trade, but the subject gives a good excuse to show endless feet of films of flesh and copulating bodies. It is a good excuse to show pornography. It is an exploitation movie. It is titillation. It was made not for an "artist's" free expression but to make money at the box office.

The same message can be expressed without an overabundance of sexual acrobatics even if the subject is sex. The same story can be told without repetitious live shows. In fact, many of the copulation scenes can be cut without harming the story. But it is the lovemaking scenes that are expected to sell the movie and make a killing at the tills. It is a clever way of trying to sell soft porn as a serious movie.

And the publicity generated by the controversy is a publicist's dream. Millions of pesos worth of publicity in media—and all for free. All they had to do was to have angry directors and show-biz folk march in the streets denouncing Jaime Cardinal Sin, the President and the government for "stifling the freedom of expression of artists."

Freedom of expression, like freedom of speech and freedom of the press, is an overused excuse for abuse. None of them is unlimited. They are limited by the rights of others. They end where the rights of others begin. Thus, if freedom of the press collides with a person's right to his honor, it becomes libel. When freedom of speech assails a person's character, it becomes slander and defamation. In the same manner, when a director's freedom of expression violates decency and good taste, it is the duty of government to protect the public from it.

But manners and morals change with the times. What may be indecent and in bad taste now may be all right tomorrow. James Joyce's "Ulysses," which was banned during its time, is now considered a classic. "Lady Chatterly's Lover" and even Ernest Hemingway's short story "Up in Michigan" were considered pornographic during their times but are now safe for even nuns and convent girls to read. Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" and "Tropic of Capricorn" are now ho-hum. Movies that were banned as pornographic in the old days, like "I Am Curious Yellow," are now mere curiosities. "Live Show" may be creating such a ruckus now, but in a few years, it may be a boring old hat.

But meanwhile, with all the attention it is getting now, it would be a box office hit if Ms Macapagal loses her nerve and lifts the ban. In fact, even with the ban, the video shops are making a killing renting and selling tapes of "Live Show." Whatever happens, its makers are clear winners.

The losers are the actors and actresses of sex movies exploited by producers, directors and talent managers. This is a story worthy to be exposed in a movie. In fact, prize-winning producer/director Marilou Diaz-Abaya, who resigned from the Directors Guild to protest the hypocritical protest-rally of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, has already exposed the modus operandi in the making of sex films. In a position paper titled "Sex Every Ten Minutes," she revealed what goes on behind the scenes, behind the glamour of the movie industry. Some excerpts:

"1. Talent scouts hunt for sexy girls and boys, usually from bars and other nightlife establishments. 'Exotic' (sexy) dancers are preferred. They are already used to taking off their clothes in public.

"2. The proposition: I will make you a big star. '*Datung*' *ito. Makakatulong ka sa pamilya mo. Mapapagaral mo ang mga kapatid mo. Basta't maghubad kalang. Magaling si direk. Maganda ang istorya. Kaya lang, kailangan mong mag* 'all-the-way.' *Wag kang mag-alala. Pansamantala lang ito.* In time, you will make the transition to serious acting.

The fact of the matter is that after one or two movies, the talent is considered *laos* (stale) and tossed back into the dustbin of anonymity.

"3. Auditions, on a 'casting couch' for a 'taste test' and 'take home' by the producer and/or director. The talent's body is inspected, her teeth checked...

"Sometimes, they test her for obedience and 'willingness.' If she obliges and passes an actual lovemaking test, she gets a down payment for the movie...

"Casting is a lucrative business. Anyone waiting in the sidelines for an acting break is material for exploitation by casting directors, assistant directors, production managers, schedule masters and many other kinds of predators.

"4. Shooting. Sex scenes are shot clinically by a dozen staff and crew. Bold star is cajoled, coerced to take it off, take it ALL off. If she hesitates, she is yelled at for being *ma-arte, mahirap katrabaho, palitan na 'yan*!

"I personally know that some producers, after previewing their sex movies, decide to reshoot, or shoot additional sex scenes, if the first batches are not 'bold' enough. *Kulang pa. Bitin. Dagdagan natin.*

"The producer's formula is: One sexy scene every 10 minutes of film time. 'Direk, you can do whatever you want, shoot it your style, deliver your message, *basta* give me 6 to 8 sex scenes.'

"5. Promotions. Print, radio, TV, film and personal appearances to launch the career of a new bold star. She is coached to mouth all the soundbites...She/he is prodded to make controversial, sex-teasing innuendoes: describe the steamy, bare-all sex scenes, her 'modern' views about sex, her aspiration to be a serious actress someday, etc., etc.

"New talent gains publicity mileage, gets noticed by rich businessman/politician, is paid from P5,000 to P10,000 for a night of 'tricks.' Manager takes 10 to 35 percent commission.

"6. The product. Next time we watch a sex drama movie, let's not ignore all the other aspects like story, direction, photography, etc. which go into the making of the movie.

"7. Short time. A new, young bold actor/actress has a very limited professional life span. Producers have this idea that once a bold star has bared all, there's nothing more to see. She is replaced by the next, new, young bold star."

Reliable

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(This should have come out yesterday, but I figured my elegy for Red Romero was more urgent. Some dead do not have all the time in the world and cannot wait. Some living do, and should.)

I received these reports last Sunday from a very reliable source.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago is no longer running for senator. Embarrassed at being found out that she is not an alumna of Harvard and worried that the "insignificant little insects," as she calls her critics, may use it against her in the campaign, she has decided to devote her energies instead to selling soy sauce, having discovered an inexhaustible supply of it. It is no accident that many of her campaign posters, the ones that show her garbed in butterfly dress with hands folded, now carry the sign "Marca Sisa Toyo." They are now also planning to cover the phrase "Champion of the Constitution" to "Champion of Salinization." Or in Tagalog, "*tsampiyon sa alat.*"

There is no truth to the rumor that she decided to quit the campaign because this is National Health Week and the World Health Organization chose as this year's theme, national mental health. There is no truth to the rumor that she did so in protest over being singled out for persecution by doctors.

The same source told me Juan Ponce Enrile is all set to throw in the towel as well. During campaign sorties over the past weeks, he was constantly disconcerted to find the skies grumbling—clouds grew thick and fast and lighting flashed in the horizon, followed by distant thunder—whenever he took to the microphone to speak. Especially so when he spoke of his virtues, chief of them his being *maka-Diyos*. He suddenly remembered what his former friend, patron and benefactor, Joseph Estrada, also called Asiong Salonga, asked God to do to Perfecto Yasay when he called up Winnie Monsod's and Oca Orbos' show while Yasay was a guest there.

My source tells me that Enrile at first insisted that all their campaign sites be surrounded by lightning rods that jutted out to heaven and that their stage be insulated by roofs and walls. But when told that would cost a fortune, apart from costing the elections (as the prospective voters would feel spurned), he decided, after sulking, that prudence was the better part of valor, or that living such as he does is the better part of being barbecued. Though he loves God, he is sparing no effort and expense to make sure he does not meet with him anytime soon.

I also received word last Sunday that Jaime Cardinal Sin is all set to abandon politics and will concentrate instead on devoting the rest of his life to one of contemplation, reflecting on the writings of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila rather than on the mutterings of one Sonia Zaldivar Ronda and two Henrietta Mendez and Manoling Morato. The reason for this apparently is that though he figures God is a practical joker (though he hasn't seen the movie "Dogma," which he would have banned as well), having turned virtue into vice and made a cardinal out of Sin, He might not find it very funny that he (Sin) has turned "*Gloria in excelsis Deo*" into "*Deus in excelsis Gloria.*" The first means "Glory to God in the highest," the second means, "God to Gloria in the highest."

There is no truth to the rumor he worries the local artists will do to him what Dante did to the clerics he (Dante) feuded with, which was to consign them to Inferno. He simply figures that God is so much smarter and more independently minded than Cory Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—though there seems much truth to the rumor He is actually a She—and cannot be so easily influenced or manipulated once he (Sin) is in heaven. So better a monastic preparation for the afterlife. While at this, the dialogue between Sin and St. Peter should sound like a Laurel and Hardy routine: Name? Sin. Sin should go to hell. Hell, no, I'm a cardinal. Cardinal sin? That's worse. No, that's right—a Cardinal Sin. A Cardinal Sin in heaven? Holy smoke. And so on.

I also heard from my reliable source last Sunday that Ms Macapagal and Alejandro Roces have finally watched several X-rated movies and finally discovered what pornography really means. Though Ms Macapagal apparently still cannot distinguish between hardcore and soft porn: like the Chinese, they all look alike. Ms Macapagal has been heard to say that since the VCD she saw was a pirated one and showed only fuzzy images, she did not commit a mortal sin, only a venial one. Not one to take his duties lightly, however, Roces has gone on to watch more movies of the sort, to obtain a more penetrating insight into the subject. It's not pleasant, he has been heard to say through gritted teeth, but somebody's got to do the dirty job.

My source had several late breaking news toward midnight last Sunday. Gringo Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, she said, were also having second thoughts about continuing to run for senator.

Honasan, sharing his patron Enrile's fear of lightning, now says it wasn't his idea to advertise himself as a "man of peace," it was Enrile's. Honasan is currently contemplating a career shift to the movies. If movie stars can become gung-ho soldiers in the movies, he says, gung-ho soldiers can become movie stars in real life. He is now looking for voice talents who can dub his voice to make him sound like Sean Connery. It's not very macho to say, "Honasan, Greg Honasan" in a voice that sounds like Cachupoy's.

Lacson in turn is contemplating a career in selling cologne. He has apparently already gone beyond budget in the campaign paying off people to run after the vandals that are crossing out the "c" in "Lacson" in his posters. Having become an authority on colognes, never being without them, he has decided to make a living out of them. His advertising campaign, which has been leaked out by a competitor, apparently shows the bodies of the Kuratong Baleleng in the background and he smiling on the foreground and saying: "Don't smell dead, use Lacson Cologne."

Finally, Erap is all set to admit he had something to do with Bubby Dacer's disappearance. But he wants to correct the motive. It had nothing to do with Dacer's plan to go to the other side. It had to do with Dacer wearing a better-looking mustache.

I got these reports from a very reliable source last Sunday, April 1. Don't you just wish every day were April 1 in this country?

Revolving-door politics

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NOTHING perhaps epitomizes the *chopsuey* nature of relationships these days than the revolving-door politics at the party thrown last week by the Araneta clan at Bahay na Puti in the heart of Cubao, Quezon City, for Doña Ester Araneta de Araneta on her 90th birthday. Close family friend, former President Cory Aquino, attended the Mass at 6:30 p.m. but left without attending the reception. Shortly after she left, in came Aquino's estranged cousin, industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen. After an hour or so of socializing, the Cojuangcos exited. At about 10 p.m., President Macapagal arrived, greeting everyone, especially the old ladies in wheelchairs who were contemporaries of her father. If Cojuangco and Ms Macapagal couldn't be publicly seen at the same gathering, this could be ascribed to the fact that the Macapagal administration is now in the midst of seeking a take-over of San Miguel Corp. and the United Coconut Planters Bank from Cojuangco.

Whatever the politics, kudos to whoever it was who coordinated the flawless entry and exit of these three personalities. By the way, absent was deposed President Erap, who once would show up at the Cubao gatherings.

* * *

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste called up last weekend to say that with God's grace, the release of Army Maj. Noel Buan, who was kidnapped by the NPAs in Quezon almost two years ago, could take place any time before Palm Sunday. This despite the recent setbacks in the suspension of military operations (SOMO) declared by the President, that resulted in two clashes in Southern Luzon. Senator Legarda says she has been in touch with NDF chief Joma Sison and all signs point to Buan's release for which she hopes to be around, together with Bishops Jesus Varela of Sorsogon and Tomas Millamena of the Philippine Independent Church. I enjoin my readers to pray that all goes well with Buan's release.

I must say that the three negotiators deserve a pat on the back, for I know how hard they have worked for Buan's release. Apart from the interminable negotiations, Legarda spent innumerable evenings baby-sitting the wives of the two kidnapped officers by phone. Cielo Buan and Nenita Martin, wife of kidnapped PNP officer Abelardo Martin, who later succumbed to wounds during a chance encounter between the NPA abductors and the military, became quite close to her. Legarda admits it was particularly difficult looking after Nenita, especially since she suffered a series of personal tragedies.

* * *

After the controversial role of the GSIS and SSS in the financial shenanigans of deposed President Estrada, another controversy has hit the GSIS. The small and medium reinsurance brokers dealing with the GSIS are quite upset and anxious about a recent order of its new president and general manager, Winston Garcia, son of Cebu Gov. Pabling Garcia. Winston's Feb. 27, 2001 office order No. 10-01, executed in the guise of reforming the system, directed the General Insurance Group (GIG), GSIS' non-life insurance company, to ensure that all reinsurance placements be first offered to National Reinsurance Corp. of the Philippines (popularly nicknamed "National Re"), a private firm composed of insurance companies operating in the Philippines.

"Reinsurance" means "insurance of an insurance," and in previous eras, the practice was to farm out most of GSIS' reinsurance needs, mainly covering all government properties, among local firms of various sizes—big, medium and small companies—as well as foreign firms. Now Garcia wants all these centralized in National Re, and he has done this in his capacity as manager of the GSIS and its hold on 20 percent, the biggest single block, of National Re.

Garcia's order also directs the holding of bids in all transactions. Many brokers, used to the old arrangement where everyone happily shares in the pie, see this as a way to bring back the "bureaucratic mess" in reinsurance procedures at GSIS.

* * *

The small and medium-sized firms, who number about a hundred mostly family owned firms with capitalization of less than P50 million each, fear, however, that in this new set-up the big brokers are likely to corner the business because of their sheer size and clout, and that they would push the smaller companies away. As one of them put it, there is this "wrong notion that big means better," but it's a notion that the small brokers say could bankrupt them, rendering their employees jobless at a time when the economy still has to recover.

The smaller brokers have appealed to the GSIS and Department of Finance officials to retain the old spread-the-benefits approach and give them a chance to survive, arguing that they have always been part and parcel of the GSIS system. They reminded the new management that over the years they have provided a comprehensive and competitive range of reinsurance services, including extensive international connections. They asserted that they have contributed substantially to GSIS premium production, worth about P1.5 billion last year alone.

* * *

Any problem at the GSIS is bound to have serious repercussions due to its sheer enormity. As our colleague Honesto General said in his column, "By any yardstick GSIS is huge." He noted that the GSIS, the biggest life insurance company here, has assets of P200 billion and investments of P40 billion. It insures all the 1.5 million government employees, collecting some P36 billion in life premiums last year alone and provides monthly pensions to some 200,000 retirees.

The smaller insurance firms have reason to fear any change in the status quo in these uncertain economic times. But those in the know argue that these firms had it coming, since the government has been encouraging them to form mergers, much like the banks have done, but they have resisted the idea. In addition, industry people have told me that perhaps what government seeks to now avert is the practice of smaller firms of simply turning around and going to the foreign firms with their business. This means that money leaves the country, whereas with National Re the business stays here primarily. Then, too, it is no secret that few firms, big or small, doing business with the GSIS come with clean hands.

* * *

As someone pointed out, apart from the 25 percent official commission in non-life insurance, there are the kickbacks and under-the-table deals between some brokers and GSIS people. The fact that Garcia was implicated in some shenanigans in the past does not raise the level of moral expectation.

In line with Ms Macapagal's moral regeneration program, perhaps it's time for reform in the reinsurance business, beginning with a review of insurance policies by the Commission on Audit. But any reform shouldn't come at the expense of the small and medium-sized firms who could be driven to bankruptcy. These smaller firms have to be assured that they will remain in business, perhaps by representing them in the GSIS' policy-making panel.

Dreamers, lovers, peacemakers

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste called first thing Sunday morning to chide me for seemingly forgetting that she is still a senator. If you will recall, my Sunday column mentioned that women need to work double-time to boost the standings of the two PPC women candidates—"Mareng" Winnie Monsod and Liway Vinzons Chato—as well as to dislodge Miriam Defensor-Santiago from her perch. If not, I said, we would end up having Santiago and Tessie Aquino-Oreta "solely representing Filipino womanhood in the Senate."

"Rina," Senator Legarda said, "I'm still in the Senate until 2004." Of course, how could I forget? No matter what happens on May 14, says Legarda, "I promise to remain a strong and vigilant voice for women, children and the environment" in the Senate.

Still, Senator Legarda, who is a staunch supporter of the women's party-list group Abanse! Pinay as well as of another party-list group Bayan Muna, will need all the help she can get to advance progressive legislation on such matters as women and children's rights, education and environmental protection. For this reason, let's really get behind the campaigns of "Mareng" Winnie and Liway Chato, both worthy representatives of Filipino womanhood.

* * *

WITH my family, I took a quick trip to Baguio over the weekend. But while the hubby and the kids worked the *ukay-ukay* shops for bargains and toured the market, I was busy cheering on women friends who had taken the plunge into local politics.

First on the agenda was a gathering hosted by the St. Louis High School Class of '56 for Milandre "Nini" Rusgal, a candidate for Baguio City councilor under the Independent Baguio Alliance-PDP-Kampi-Lakas-NUCD. The IBA-led coalition is headed by Pablito Sanidad, who gained fame as a private prosecutor in the impeachment trial, for congressman; Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas for mayor; and Rene Cortes for vice mayor.

I first met "Doc Nini," as we call her, when she became one of the scholars of the Pilipina project SWELL. (Strengthening Women's Empowerment at the Local Level) Project SWELL, funded by the Ford Foundation, sought to train women in municipalities to take leadership roles in their communities, including joining local politics. I felt compelled to be at the launching of Doc Nini's candidacy since her running was at our instigation, after all.

It was at the launching that Pat Otanes Pablo, one of Doc Nini's former teachers, told the touching story of how Nini struggled through her high school years even if at times her parents could barely afford to pay her tuition. "My classmates would pool their money together just so I could take the exams," recalled Nini to me. It was for this reason, said Pablo, that Nini decided early on to become a teacher herself and repay her debt to her classmates and teachers by educating a new generation.

True enough, the launching was attended as well by Doc Nini's many students at St. Louis, friends and neighbors at the Aurora Hill neighborhood where she and her siblings grew up, senior citizens of Baguio, other SWELL scholars and youth volunteers, as well as the other candidates for councilor on their slate. In Doc Nini, Baguio will be getting not just a woman of strength and true grit, but an experienced educator, civic leader and civil servant.

* * *

LATER that day, the Abanse! Pinay Baguio-Benguet chapter held its electoral kick-off for all the women running for office at the city, municipal or provincial level.

Leading the pack is former La Trinidad Mayor Edna Cuyopan Tabanda, who is running for vice governor of Benguet with incumbent Gov. Raul Molintas. Edna, who chairs the Abanse! Pinay Baguio-Benguet chapter, started her career in the civil service as a public health nurse, eventually serving as a respected mayor of the provincial capital. Dynamic and articulate, Edna is a vital force in the organization and empowerment of women in the Cordilleras.

Among the women candidates who spoke at the electoral kick-off were Lolita "Lolit" Castillo and Loreta "Lorie" Tuazon, who are running for councilor of La Trinidad. Tuazon is a SWELL scholar herself, as well as a multi-awarded social welfare officer and civic worker. There were also candidates for councilor Lydia Andawe (Tuba), Tita Bugtong and Estelle Bumadan.

Other women running for office in Baguio-Benguet are: Baguio City councilor Lulu Tabanda, who is running for vice mayor. She belongs to the ticket headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, who is running for congressman and Congressman Vergara, who is running for mayor. There's also Rose Dulnuan, who is running for Benguet provincial board member; and Connie Balao, who is contesting the mayoralty of Atok.

Also present were the wives of candidates, led by Lydia Galasgas, president of the association of SWELL scholars whose husband is running for board member; and Vilma Cuyopan, whose husband Paul, Edna's younger brother, is running for councilor in La Trinidad, among many others.

* * *

MANY thanks to Mike and Edna Anton, who graciously booked us as guests at the Baguio Country Club for this lightning visit; and to Donna and Joey Rufino, who refused to allow me to go after dropping by for a brief chat at their Star Café, without at least a token, in this case a scrumptious egg pie!

And of course to Louee Padilla and Ping Estepa, who organized the visit. Now serving as Doc Nini's campaign managers, they told me very interesting and hilarious stories of their campaign, being waged on a shoestring budget.

I have only admiration for women like Doc Nini, Louee and Ping and all the other women inspired by Project SWELL and Abanse! Pinay to take a blind leap of faith into the electoral arena. At the opening rites of Doc Nini's kick-off, everyone was asked to say whether he or she was "a dreamer, a lover or a peacemaker." My own feeling is, every woman who risks the new and untested field of politics is all of the above.

Filipino trivia and historical facts

Sense and Sensibility

Bambi L. Harper

MY friend Olivia must have wanted to make me feel good and so she e-mailed me this collection of positive trivia about Filipinos, most of them either dead or living abroad or carrying other passports. I decided to have fun and add my own comments. You are free to do the same if the spirit moves you.

(1) In the Philippines, Filipinos were introduced to the English language in 1762 by British invaders, not Americans. (That's true. But since Spain got the archipelago back after two years, it probably wasn't politically correct or safe for that matter to admit you could speak English.)

(2) What is the world's third largest English-speaking nation, next to the United States and the United Kingdom? The Philippines. (We'll let the deans of the different colleges argue that one out. It's not quite what I hear from them.)

(3) The United States bought the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam from Spain in 1898. The Filipino-American Independence War from 1898 to 1902 ensued, killing 4,234 Americans and how many Filipinos? About 16,000 were killed in action and 200,000 died from famine and pestilence. The Philippines lost and was colonized until 1946. (The date 1946 may be open to question.)

(4) Los Angeles, California was co-founded in 1781 by a Filipino named Antonio Miranda Rodriguez, along with 43 Latinos from Mexico sent by the Spanish government. (Now this is news to me. No wonder both of us keep flocking back to it like bees to honey. If anyone has further information, I'm sure a lot of readers would be interested.)

(5) What antibiotic did Filipino doctor Abelardo Aguilar co-discover? Hint: brand is Ilosone, named after Iloilo. Erythromycin. (And who has got the copyright?)

(6) Marc Loinaz, a Filipino inventor from New Jersey, first made the one-chip video camera. (If this is who I think it is, I'm absolutely thrilled even if I can't tell one chip from another. He was one of my children's classmates in Montessori and I knew his parents before they knew each other. That has nothing to do with anything, but never mind. It's Tuesday and too early in the week to make sense.)

(7) The first-ever international chess grandmaster from Asia was Eugenio Torre who won at the Chess Olympiad in Nice, France in 1974.

(8) A son of two Filipino physicians scored over 700 in the verbal portion of the Standardized Achievement Test (SAT) before the age of 13. He was Kiwi Danao Camara of Punahou School, Hawaii.

(9) Edward Sanchez, a Mensa member, bagged the grand prize in the first Philippine Search for Product Excellence in Information Technology. (Where is he now?)

(10) Who was the Filipino-American dancer who scored a perfect 1,600 in the SAT? Joyce Monteverde of California. (This is not very clear. Did being a dancer make the difference?)

(11) Who invented the fluorescent lamp? Thomas Edison discovered electric light. And Nikola Tesla thought up fluorescent lighting. But the fluorescent lamp we use today was invented by Agapito Flores (a Cebu man named Benigno Flores of Bantayan Island, according to the INQUIRER), a Filipino scientist. (So who has got the copyright?)

(12) Pure or part-Filipino celebrities in American show-biz include: Von Flores, Tia Carrere, Paolo Montalban, Lea Salonga, Ernie Reyes Jr., Nia Peeples, Julio Iglesias Jr., Lou Diamond Phillips, Phoebe Cates and Rob Schneider.

(13) The first Filipino act to become a top hit on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart in the 1960s was the group Rocky Fellers. Sugar Pie de Santo (his father was from the Philippines), the artist formerly known as Prince (according to the October 1984 article "Prince in Exile" by Scott Isler in the magazine Musician), Jaya, Foxy Brown and Enrique Iglesias followed.

(13) Pure Filipinos who had success in minor charts were Jocelyn Enriquez, a.k.a. Oriental Madonna, Buffy, Pinay and (Ella May) Saison. Latina-American pop star Christina Aguilera lost to Filipina vocalist Josephine Roberto, a.k.a. Banig, during the International Star Search years ago. In a mid-1999 MTV chat, she said that competing against someone of Banig's age was "not fair."

(14) Who is the personal physician of former US President William Clinton? Eleanor "Connie" Concepcion Mariano, a Filipina who was the youngest captain in the US Navy.

(15) The first Filipino-American in the US Congress was Virginia Rep. Robert Cortez-Scott, a Harvard alumnus. (A real one this time, I take it, and not another of those who took a summer course.)

(16) Filipinos had their first taste of Mexican chili and corn during the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade (1564-1815). In return, Mexico's people had their initial taste of tamarind, Manila mango and a Filipino banana called *racatan* or *lakatan*.

(17) Founded in 1595 by Spaniards, the University of San Carlos in Cebu City is older than Harvard and is the oldest university in Asia.

(18) University of Santo Tomas in Manila, established in 1611, is Asia's second oldest. (Say thank you to the Friars.)

(19) Who was the first Asian and/or Filipino to snatch America's Pulitzer Prize? Philippines Herald war journalist Carlos P. Romulo in 1941. (He was also the first Asian to become president of the United Nations.)

(20) The first two Filipino-Americans to garner the same award 56 years later were Seattle Times' Alex Tizon and Byron Acohido, who is part-Korean.

(21) Filipino writer Jose Rizal could read and write at age 2, and grew up to speak more than 20 languages, including Latin, Greek, German, French and Chinese. What were his last words? "*Consummatum est!*" (It is done!)

Grade school life

Youngblood

Misca

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AT FIRST glance, everything looks so innocent, so pure and clean. Who would suspect that behind its lovely walls, its air-conditioned classrooms and peaceful surroundings lie a life so treacherous? I should know for I've been there.

My past seven years were spent locked inside its walls and imprisoned in its surroundings. That place became my new home where I had to spend eight hours of my day, five days a week, nine months in a year. Sometimes the hours would slow down and it would feel like I had been there for a month, but then there were times when the day would quicken and leave me feeling like I had traveled on a bullet train. Most of the time, however, things would be normal and the days were just days and weeks just weeks.

Within its walls, I have learned a lot of things. It was there where I met my friends, my enemies and my teachers. It was there where I learned Math, Language, Science and other subjects. It was there where I learned about life.

The teachers never discussed life and so I had to learn that alone. There were also no special books where I could take a look and know what life was all about. Instead I had to experience many things before I learned about it. And what was worse was that I had to experience some of those awful things over and over again before they whacked me on the head and I learned some lessons.

School life was so different from what I expected it to be. I remember that seven years ago, when I was just an incoming prep student, my eyes shone with happiness and my heart pounded with excitement. But after the first four years of grade school life, I began to dread school days.

It was in Grade 4 when I lost my best friends and I had to eat my food all by myself and walk by my lonesome along the hallway. Sometimes someone would join me or I would sit with somebody, but most of the time I was alone.

I preferred it that way. I was alone with my thoughts. That was all I did whenever I was alone: think, think, think. It came to a point when I thought of the weirdest things and it began to scare me. So I figured that I had to share my time with others before I drove myself out of zone of sanity.

The next year I looked for friends, any group that would accept me. That search was tough; it took me two *barkadas* to find where I really belonged. Finally, the third group accepted me for what I was, and so the year ended with me having as friends the members of the group.

But after some difficulties in Grade 6, our friendship was lost. It was my fault really. I guess that the things I did irritated them and so they began to talk about me behind my back. Before long I realized that I had to go because they wanted me to.

Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to apologize—or rather I didn't want to. I don't know, but up to now, I'm not sure of my feelings toward them. And so up to now, the wound has not healed. I don't know how they feel; perhaps they don't care anymore. But I still remember all the things they did to me and the things I did for them. But past is past and there is nothing one can do to change it.

Grade school wasn't fun for me. Of course, there were times when I was happy. But there were so many times when I was hurt and the wounds caused great pain. I remember that I used to be a favorite topic of conversation among some people who enjoyed tormenting souls. I know. I can hear their mocking laughter and their looks filled with scorn. It was torture for me and it filled my heart with great sadness.

But I am also grateful for those times, for they made me strong. Early on, I wanted so much to rise above my class. I wished to belong to the select group of people liked by everyone. This group was made up of fortunate students who didn't suffer criticisms by fellow students. They were the girls who were admired by the geeks and accepted by the popular.

I, however, belong to the autistic group. My friends didn't but I did.

There was another group of loners who didn't belong to any other group. They were the most unfortunate of all. They weren't liked by anyone and were often mocked by everyone who didn't have something more interesting to talk about.

Of course, there are the popular girls. There were two kinds in our school: the good ones and the bad ones. The good ones were the students who excelled in every subject. The bad ones were the people who broke the rules and had "relationships" with their friends. Personally, I think they were highly misunderstood and that deep down they had golden hearts.

Truly grade school taught me a lot of things. More things than I expected. Not only did I learn Math, Science and Language, I also learned a few things about life. It was there where I realized that life isn't a wheel or a complicated road with many twists and turns. Life is life. There is no way to describe it. And if one wishes to know what it is all about then one must go through it and search for its meaning. And only then will one realize that he or she has lived.

As I leave grade school and move on to another phase in life, I'm sure I will miss the lovely walls, the air-conditioned classrooms and peaceful surroundings. But then again, there's the complicated life that is well concealed within its walls, waiting for another innocent soul to teach. I know. I've been through it.

Misca, 12, finished grade school at St. Scholastica's College, Manila.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

Whatever Happened. . .?

Sta. Mesa massacre

ON OCT. 31, 1998, two teenaged siblings and two housemaids of an affluent Chinese-Filipino family in Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila were killed. Joanne Yao, 19, her brother Jonathan, 17, and their maids Allen Selorio, 16, and Iris Ipa, 17, each had at least 10 stab wounds. They all died before reaching the Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong City.

Investigators from the Western Police District pointed at Dante Delfin, a stay-in houseboy of the Yao family, and his friend Erwin Daliva as the perpetrators. Police said that on the eve of the massacre, Delfin asked for a loan from the family but was turned down. He went outside and met Daliva, who was at that time smoking marijuana. The two had a pot and drinking session at the Yaos' house. After which, they proceeded to commit the brutal murders.

Daliva hid at his uncle's house in Dasmariñas, Cavite, after the crime. His uncle, however, called up Dasmariñas police who facilitated Daliva's surrender.

Daliva admitted participation in the massacre and confirmed Delfin's involvement. Daliva was later turned over to the WPD in Manila.

On Nov. 11, 1998, Daliva was charged with four counts of murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court. The cases were raffled off to the sala of Judge Manuel Muro of Branch 54. On Nov. 26, an "urgent motion to amend the information" was filed by Daliva's counsel asking that Delfin be included in the murder charges.

On Dec. 9, however, the court ordered the motion withdrawn when the public prosecutors said that there was no need to amend the information because Delfin was still at large. The public prosecutors argued that a separate information could be filed later against Delfin after he is arrested.

Daliva pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Jan. 4, 1999.

On May 9, 2000, the cases were submitted for decision.

Case status: No decision has been handed down yet. Muro could not write the decision because the Supreme Court suspended him indefinitely last August due to his alleged involvement in the Yu Yuk Lai drug case. Daliva is presently detained at the Manila City Jail. ***Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department***

Corruption at the highest level

THE NEWS that Carlos Arellano, former chair of the Social Security System and Federico Pascual, former president of the Government Service Insurance System, are going to testify against ousted President Estrada is truly amazing.

It appears that both bankers will justify their having invested the Filipino people's money in shares of stock in Belle Corp. because then President Estrada ordered them to do so. Really?

What happened to their ethics, their good judgment and their duty to safeguard the people's hard-earned pension funds?

Giving fat commissions to the president of the country (reportedly P189.7 million was paid to Estrada on the Belle Corp. transactions) is corruption at the highest level. The heads of the SSS and GSIS were not lowly peons who had no choice. They were well educated, highly paid executives, with power and authority, from whom much was expected.

Arellano and Pascual's complicity with former President Estrada's greed is unethical, immoral and reprehensible.—**ISABEL CARO WILSON, Makati City**

Right choice for LRT

WE, the managers and the rank and file employees of the Light Rail Transit Authority, vehemently deny the allegation made by Neal H. Cruz last March 8 regarding the dissatisfaction of the LRT employees with the appointment of Enrico B. Garcia as officer-in-charge of the LRTA. On the contrary, upon learning of Garcia's appointment, we were all jubilant and satisfied with the decision made by the Office of the President.

The truth of the matter is that the LRT employees, having worked closely with Garcia, who has been the manager for operations and engineering from 1996 up to the present, agree that he should not only be officer-in-charge but appointed as administrator of the LRTA.

Garcia is a graduate of BS civil engineering of the Mapua Institute of Technology and took up graduate studies and earned a master in management degree at the Philippine Christian University (PCU) as well as a diploma in airport engineering at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore in 1993.

Because of his diligence, loyalty, honesty and hard work, the LRT employees believe that he has the competence to serve as LRTA administrator and will surely serve the government with his dynamic leadership and dedication to public service.

Cruz wrote that "President Macapagal needs the right person to run the LRT toward financial stability and more efficient service for the millions of commuters." Indeed, the Office of the President made the right choice in the person of Enrico B. Garcia.—**MA. ERMIE C. CHANG, public relations chief, Light Rail Transit Authority**

LETTERS

Due recognition for screenwriters

I NOTICED during the recent Oscar Awards ceremony that the awards for best original screenplay and best adapted screenplay were given only after the awards for best actor and best actress were given and just before the awards for best director and best picture were announced.

If this means that they finally realized the crucial role that a film script plays in coming up with a good film, I salute the US Film Academy. I share the view that not even the combined talents of the best director, the best actors and the best technical film crew in the world can save a badly written film.

I therefore hope that our local film scriptwriters will be given the same recognition which they rightfully deserve.—**RONNIE S. COVAR, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City**

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Women who plunder

LAST February, a New York court sentenced a Filipino-American, Fidela Caparas, to a prison term of 6 to 18 years for grand larceny. We're not talking about small-time theft here. Caparas admitted to stealing $12.4 million from her employer, Harris Publishing, where she worked as an accountant.

Prosecutors say they "gave up counting" during their audits and believe Caparas stole much more. Investigators did find she had acquired more than 30 pieces of property, mostly in the Philippines but including a $500,000 house in New Jersey and a luxury home in Florida. She was said to fly home, first class, three times a year, and to splurge $40,000 to $50,000 at a time for her children's birthday parties. Her annual salary was $150,000—not a small amount even by American standards, but not enough to support her spending habits.

Is that all beginning to sound familiar? Yup, it sounds like Imelda on a smaller scale.

Which takes me to my point about women who plunder. We seem to be getting a lot of them in the Philippines, the most visible ones being the long-playing real-life *telenovela* around the Marcos family and, more recently, Erap's women. I'm sure readers can name their own "small-time" corrupt women officials (or wives of officials), whether she's the barangay chair or the local traffic aide, or those in much higher and mightier positions.

What's so fascinating is that when these women go wrong, they do it right, conforming to society's expectations, especially about gender.

Take Caparas' case. A New York Times headline about her case read, "Philanthropist Stole Millions" because Caparas claimed she had donated generously to hospitals and churches in the Philippines. Back in her home province of Cavite, Caparas was supposedly known as "Mrs. C." the "C" standing for "charity."

Like Imelda, "Mrs. C" was generous with friends, paying for an entourage of friends when she flew home. And then of course she probably was a good "family woman," making sure her children and relatives were provided for.

At her sentencing, Caparas was properly polite, apologizing to her family and her former employer. But the judge was not convinced, telling reporters afterwards that he had imposed a heavy sentence because Caparas was so "completely without remorse." Caparas had reneged on a promise to sign over assets and and pieces of property to pay off what she owed her former employer. The judge said this was a case of "greed and betrayal of trust." It seems Caparas had it all calculated—in six years, she will be eligible for parole and can come back home to live in luxury.

Did she learn from our politicians? Maybe, maybe not. I think she simply played out her social roles, and will be "rewarded" for it. To the hilt, she performed her roles as faithful wife, dutiful mother, reliable friend.

Ironically, these ideal attributes also form a perfect template for corruption. Sociologist Raul Pertierra notes how in some areas of the Philippines the usurers are more often women. The reason is that women are spared the stigma that male usurers would have. The *usurera*, after all, is only doing this for her family, so who would dare speak out against that?

Other social norms affect the way society looks at women's corruption. In the case of Erap, people were much less reluctant to criticize Loi Estrada: Okay, people would say, even if she did accept money from Chavit, it was in behalf of her husband. Likewise, when Sr. Christine Tan exposed how Loi and her son were cornering sweepstakes funds, people shrugged their shoulders and said at least the money went to her charitable projects. I still hear similar arguments for Imelda: at least she built the Cultural Center, the Heart Center and whatever other centers you can name.

There are, of course, limits to what a corrupt woman can get away with. In Imelda's case, people found her too greedy and, typically, ended up blaming her for corrupting Marcos. (The Ilocanos will add, "She's from the Visayas. An Ilocano woman would never be that profligate.")

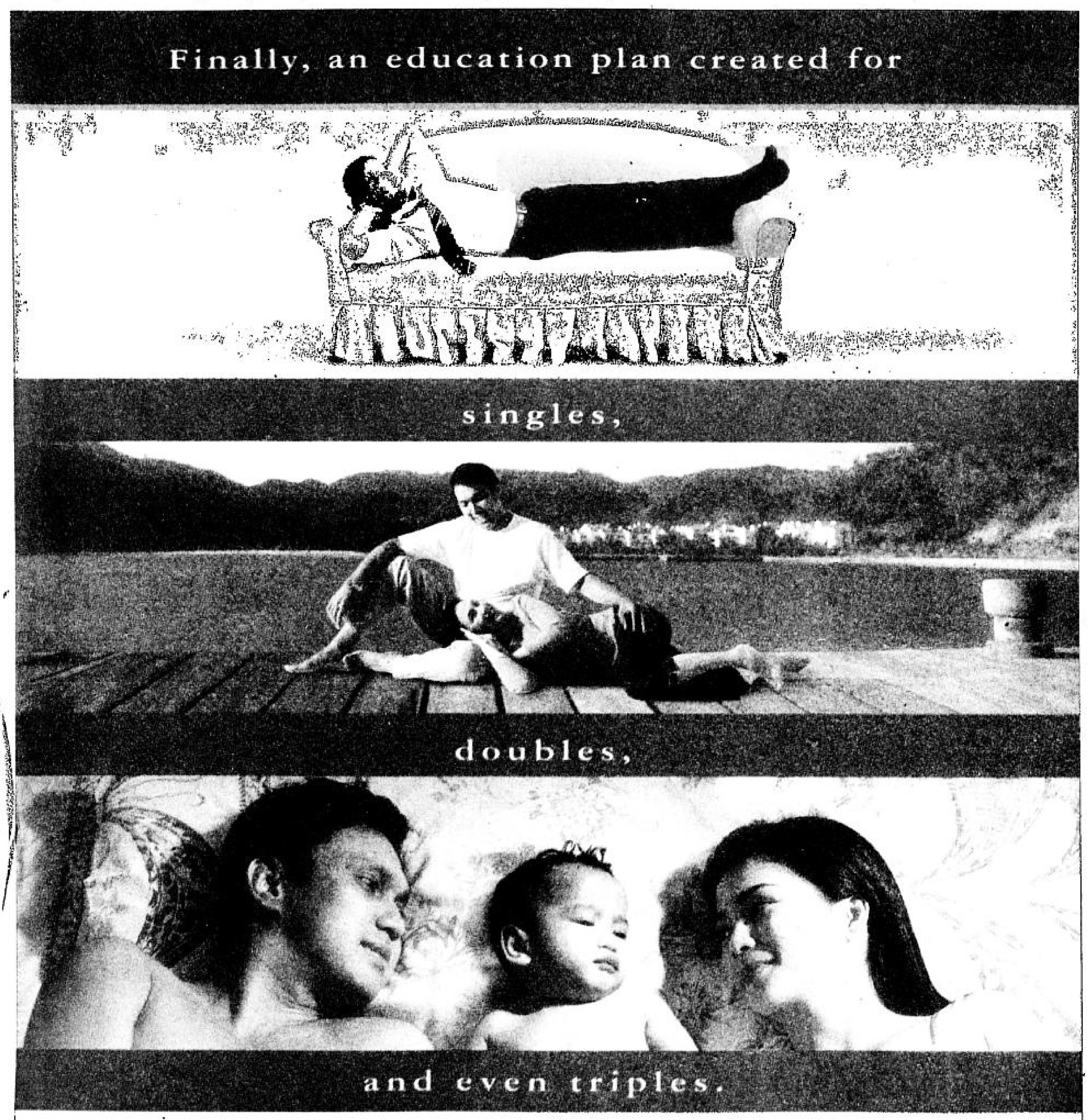
But as I said, after all's said and done, people tend to be more forgiving of these women. When Evita Peron died, people poured out into the streets weeping and later appealed to the Vatican to have her beatified. These women were doing it all, after all, for family, for country, for God.

Many years ago I had to interview a woman government official notorious for her corruption. (She remains in office, untouched and unfazed, surviving four presidents.) She was an Imelda clone with her beehive coiffure, surrounded by photographs of family, interspersed with Sto. Niño statues. It was hard to keep my attention focused on the interview because she had a large gem-studded crucifix on her necklace that kept flashing against the light. She had a fixed smile that alternated, depending on what she was saying, between being motherly and shrewdly calculating. Then there were her fiery red manicured nails that I could imagine counting off the cash she received as bribes, the same nimble fingers peeling off loose change to dole out to the poor as alms.

To this day, I am not sure whether such women are victims or masters of our feudal culture. Maybe they're both.

* * *

The UP Concert Chorus and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra performs Rossini's "Stabat Mater" tomorrow at San Agustin Church, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the San Agustin Museum or at the gate before the performance.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FORCED LANDING IN HAINAN

Air collision worsens US-China ties

WASHINGTON—A damaged US Navy aircraft was forced to land in China after colliding with a Chinese military jet over the South China Sea, US and Chinese officials said Sunday, giving differing details of the incident, which comes at a time of tension between Washington and Beijing.

US officials demanded the return of the EP-3 surveillance aircraft packed with high-tech equipment after it made an emergency landing on the Chinese island of Hainan.

US Pacific Command chief Admiral Dennis Blair said Sunday the aircraft was in international airspace when it was intercepted by Chinese fighter jets.

"It was about 112 km off the Chinese island of Hainan, in international airspace," Blair told reporters at Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii, where the command is headquartered.

Blair said during the televised press conference that the interception occurred far away from the 19-km zone around the island, which is considered Chinese airspace.

Earlier in the day, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhu Bangzao was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying the US plane had "intruded" into China's airspace and landed without permission at Lingshui Airport in Hainan at 9:33 a.m. (same time in Manila) Sunday.

Zhu also said the US Navy EP-3 Aries plane had turned toward the Chinese jets suddenly, resulting in its bumping into and damaging one of them.

That version of events was disputed by Blair, who said "the Chinese fighters intercepted the aircraft and one of them bumped into the wing of the EP-3 aircraft."

Upon landing at Lingshui, the US crew sent a radio message to its base, informing superiors that the plane had landed safely with all 24 crew members on board, according to Blair.

Blair said aircraft like the EP-3 enjoy "sovereign immunity."

"No other country can go on board them or seize them," Blair said. "They are sovereign territory."

China said Sunday that one of its jet fighters had crashed and the pilot was missing after the collision, the Xinhua state news agency reported from Beijing.

The US Pacific Command said the EP-3 Aries, from Kadena US Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, was on a routine surveillance mission over the South China Sea Sunday when it was intercepted by two Chinese fighter jets.

"We've got assurances our crew is safe and sound and that we'll get to see them soon, and we've got some people on the way down (to Hainan) tomorrow," Joseph Prueher, the US ambassador to China, said in an interview with CNN in Beijing.

Prueher, who reportedly met with senior Chinese officials to discuss the incident, acknowledged Chinese reports that its jet fighter had crashed as a result of the collision.

"It appears the Chinese have lost some aircraft, and we're sorry that occurred," Prueher said.

The United States expressed concern about its plane and crew to the government of China via its Embassy in Beijing and the Chinese Embassy in Washington, the Pacific Command said.

"We expect that the (Chinese government) will respect the integrity of the aircraft and the well-being and safety of the crew in accordance with international practices, expedite any necessary repairs to the aircraft and facilitate the immediate return of the aircraft and crew," the Pacific Command statement said.

Full details of damage to the US aircraft, a four-engine reconnaissance aircraft outfitted with high-tech electronic surveillance equipment, were not immediately available. *AFP*

US calls lack of contact with crew 'unacceptable'

BEIJING—American diplomats yesterday flew to an island in the South China Sea where a US Navy surveillance plane landed after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet. The US Ambassador said it was "inexplicable and unacceptable" that American officials were unable to contact the 24 crew members more than a day after the accident.

There was no indication whether Chinese experts had entered the EP-3 plane to examine its sophisticated monitoring equipment. The plane landed early Sunday on Hainan island after a mid-air collision that China blamed on the US pilot. American officials insisted the Chinese had no right to enter or examine the aircraft without US permission.

Three American diplomats had arrived on Hainan and were making their way to the airfield, US Ambassador Joseph Prueher said. Prueher said US officials had not been able to contact the crew.

He said China had no legal basis to hold them.

The ambassador complained that Chinese officials had given only minimal responses to queries about the plane and its crew. He said he had discussed the matter six times with US Secretary of State Colin Powell. *AP*

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Milosevic proclaims innocence from jail

BELGRADE—Police seized a vast cache of weapons from the mansion that Slobodan Milosevic transformed into a fortress before authorities arrested the former Yugoslav president to face corruption charges from his 13-year rule.

Milosevic, who surrendered before dawn Sunday, maintained his innocence, telling an investigative judge that he was not guilty of "a single count of the charge sheet."

Nevertheless, the judge ordered him held for at least 30 days while police continue investigations into allegations of criminal conspiracy and diverting millions of dollars of state funds.

After Milosevic was whisked away to Belgrade's Central Prison, police entered his compound in the tree-lined Dedinje district and said they found a vast arsenal, including two armored personnel carriers, 30 automatic weapons, three heavy machine guns, an anti-tank grenade launcher, 23 pistols of varying calibers, 30 rifle grenades, two cases of hand grenades and several cases of machine gun clips and other ammunition.

Milosevic had promised never to be taken alive and brandished a pistol during negotiations that led to his surrender. His daughter Mirjana fired pistol shots after her father agreed to give up, officials said, but there were no injuries.

It was a bizarre end to the political history of a leader who presided over the destruction of Yugoslavia, triggering and losing four Balkan wars that left his country in political, economic and spiritual ruin.

Milosevic agreed to give up only after government negotiators assured him that he would not be handed over immediately to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, which indicted him in 1999 for atrocities allegedly committed by his forces against ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo.

That crackdown triggered the 78-day Nato bombing campaign and the takeover of the province by the United Nations and Nato.

Still, Yugoslav authorities face intense international pressure to extradite Milosevic. The Bush Administration is expected to declare yesterday whether steps taken so far are enough to avoid a cutoff of $50 million in American aid.

In Washington, US President George W. Bush said Milosevic's arrest represented an important step toward ending "the tragic era of his brutal dictatorship." He reminded Belgrade that the United States considers the arrest a first move toward Milosevic's trial at the war crimes tribunal.

"We cannot and must not forget the chilling images of terrified women and children herded onto trains, emaciated prisoners interned behind barbed wire and mass graves unearthed by UN investigators," Bush said in a statement Sunday.

France, Germany, Italy and Nato praised Milosevic's arrest as a first step toward his trial at the UN tribunal in The Hague.

The spokesperson for the tribunal, Florence Hartmann, said the court expected Milosevic in The Hague by the end of the year.

Many Yugoslavs, however, consider the tribunal to be a political instrument of US foreign policy rather than an impartial court.

The Yugoslav Constitution bars the extradition of Yugoslavs to courts abroad.

The new government plans to change the law but is under pressure by its allies in Yugoslavia's smaller republic, Montenegro, to hold off until after elections there on April 22. The government's ally, which used to support Milosevic, faces a strong challenge from rivals who want to declare independence—and fears its supporters might turn against it if the Belgrade government takes steps to extradite the former president.

Mindful of a possible backlash from Milosevic supporters, authorities maintained that the former president would be treated fairly. *AP*

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Asians fastest growing minority in California

OAKLAND, California—Lured by the high-tech boom, California's Asian population has surged over the past decade to become the fastest growing race in the state, census data show.

Immigration propelled the increase, reinforcing California's standing as a distant cousin to Asia, itself a strikingly diverse continent. More than one in three of America's 11.6 million Asians now lives in California, the survey reported last week.

About 3.8 million California residents identified themselves as Asian or Pacific Islander, up from 2.7 million in 1990. An additional 550,000 people said they were part Asian or Pacific Islander—an option for the first time as the 2000 census allowed respondents to check multiple races.

While the state's population rose 14 percent, to 33.9 million people, those identifying as at least part Asian jumped 61 percent.

That disproportionate increase was not confined to established Asian communities around Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. Asians percolated into high-growth suburbs as well as cities sprinkled along the Central Valley. The Asian population more than doubled in some cities including Folsom, Tracy, and Galt.

The trend also extend to native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. About 116,000 people in California identified as islanders, slightly more than in the state of Hawaii itself.

Overall, 373 of California's towns and cities saw a gain in Asian population, while just 86 lost Asians.

Asians are now a majority in five cities: Cerritos, Monterey Park, and Walnut Park, all in the Los Angeles area, and Daly City and Milpitas, both south of San Francisco.

Across the state, immigration was the driving force behind the rise in the state's Asian population. Although the census hasn't yet broken down respondents into country of origin birth, California netted 731,000 Asians or Pacific Islanders through immigration and 528,000 through births during the 1990's, according to Mary Heim, a demographer with the state's Finance Department.

Work originally drew Asian immigrants to California in the 1850s and work was again the main enticement in the 1990s, analysts said.

But while Chinese first came to help mine the Sierras and build the rail system, the state's recent high-tech gold rush is the new stimulus—and it is attracting a broad mix of immigrants.

"It's job-based immigration," said Chin Ming Yang, a Taiwan-born regional planner who came to Philadelphia for school but settled in the Bay Area.

Yang's success motivated six nieces and nephews to earn advanced degrees at US universities and settle within an hour's drive of their uncle. Demographers call it "chain migration," and it was a powerful force over the last decade as recent immigrant communities settled in the state.

Asians have reached a critical cultural mass in many California communities. San Jose and Orange County have Vietnamese language papers, while Asian shopping districts, cultural centers and other public spaces abound across the state. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Worse violence in Middle East feared

JERUSALEM—Fears rose yesterday of even worse violence in the Middle East after Palestinians reportedly shot dead an Israeli soldier and Israel threatened more incursions into Palestinian Authority territory. On Sunday, Israeli special forces had captured members of Yasser Arafat's bodyguard, while clashes continued and left four Palestinian teenagers injured. The Israeli soldier was killed late Sunday by Palestinian gunfire near the village of Salem outside the northern West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinian witnesses said. The Israeli Army said an Israeli position had been swept by gunfire, but gave no further immediate details. Villagers said Palestinians had opened fire on a house where an Israeli position had been set up. An ambulance arrived shortly after to take away the body while the Israeli Army imposed a curfew. The killing, if confirmed, would bring the death toll in clashes between Israelis and Palestinians since the beginning of a Palestinian uprising on Sept. 28 to 465—70 Israelis, 381 Palestinians, 13 Israeli Arabs and one German. Israeli Army chief Gen. Shaul Mofaz hinted that more Israeli incursions could take place, after special forces stole into Palestinian-controlled territories and abducted members of the elite Force 17 *AFP*

Foot-and-mouth cases climb

LONDON—The Army's large-scale animal slaughter and a policy change permitting burial of young cow carcasses led to some words of nope Sunday in Britain's fight against foot-and mouth disease. But the number of cases continued to climb, surpassing 890 in the course of the day. And in the southwest county of Cornwall, which had appeared to be disease-free for four weeks, a new case was confirmed. Agriculture Minister Nick Brown insisted again that the highly contagious livestock disease was "most certainly under control." *AP*

Mori moves closer to resignation

TOKYO—Japan's unpopular prime minister moved a step closer to leaving office yesterday, when he planned a huddle with powerbrokers to set up a ruling party election to pick his successor. Yoshiro Mori, who faces intense pressure to resign, was expected to meet with other Liberal Demhis intentions. Mori indicated last month that he would move up elections for ruling party president, which were originally scheduled for September. That was widely viewed as an acknowledgment that he intends to step down. The party has been under mounting pressure to replace Mori ahead of elections this summer for the upper house of Parliament for fear that his unpopularity would hurt the LDP at the polls. *AP*

Taiwan worries about arms sale

TAIPEI—The midair collision between US and Chinese military planes came at a tense time for Taiwan: just weeks before Washington is to decide what weapons to sell this island. The incident over the South China Sea could complicate the annual arms negotiations, which Beijing has been aggressively lobbying against, analysts said Monday. China considers Taiwan to be a breakaway province, and Chinese leaders argue that selling weapons to the island delays their goal of unification. "This is a very important, sensitive moment," said Andrew Yang, a defense expert at the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, a Taipei think-tank. Yang doubted that China would be able to successfully use the collision to get Washington to strike items off Taiwan's weapons wish list, which includes submarines, surveillance planes and destroyers equipped with the most advanced US radar system. But the collision Sunday will feed China's argument that US arms sales to Taiwan increase the possibility of war in the region. "This incident is a symbol of the potential tension between the United States and China in the South China Sea," Yang said. *AP*

World's first same-sex weddings feted

AMSTERDAM—The gay community rejoiced with tears and whoops of exultation Sunday over the first same-sex marriages recognized by any country under new laws granting homosexuals equal rights to marry and adopt children. Amsterdam's mayor wed four gay couples at the stroke of midnight Saturday, immediately after the legislation enacted last year went into effect. The couples—three male and one female—nervously held hands and exchanged vows to fulfill the duties of matrimony set out in Dutch law. "There are two reasons to rejoice: You are celebrating your marriage and you are also celebrating your right to be married," Mayor Job Cohen told the newlyweds in Amsterdam's City Hall. *AP*

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HEALTH WISE IWC investigators will testify that more than 50% of these dogs are dead, and are left lying rotting on top of each other long before they ever reach the filthy illegal fly-infested slaughter houses, where hygiene and cleanliness is yet to be discovered, the risk of contracting salmonella/food poisoning is very high, in extreme cases these illnesses can lead to death.

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Jail warden, guards sued

ROXAS CITY—The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology dismissed a jail warden and two jail guards in Dumalag, Capiz following the escape of four inmates Sunday night. Supt. Danilo Barbasa, acting BJMP director for Western Visayas, personally handed over the relief orders on Tuesday to Insp. Rolando Delecion, jail warden of the Dumalag BJMP, and SJO2 Rey Nolledo and SJO1 Henry Ferasol. Ferasol and Nolledo were the guards on duty when inmates Jose Castor, Silverio Sustentuedo, Mecasio Villar and Domingo Bajon escaped March 25 from the BJMP building in Dumalag, about 40 kilometers from this capital city. Castor is facing charges for double murder; Sustitido, multiple rape; Villar, illegal possession of firearms and Bajon, frustrated murder. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gloria's birthday

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial capitol began last week preparations for the 54th birthday and homecoming of President Macapagal-Arroyo on April 5 in Pampanga, the home province of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. Gov. Manuel Lapid formed an organizing committee that would ensure for the President "a simple but productive stay," according to Leo Mendoza, the governor's technical assistant. It will be a "working birthday" for the President whose itinerary includes consulting with leaders of civic organizations and local officials, inaugurating projects and visiting poor communities. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected NPA slain

PALO, Leyte—A suspected rebel was killed during an encounter between the New People's Army guerrillas and soldiers on March 25 in Barangay Bugho, Pinabacdao town, Samar, police reports said. The report said members of the Army's Bravo Company, 52nd Infantry Battalion were patrolling Barangay Bugho at about 11:47 p.m. when they encountered 20 alleged NPA rebels. A 30-minute gunfight ensued, leading to the killing of a suspected rebel identified as Rizaldo Oscar Batula, 20. No casualty was reported on the government side. The soldiers seized an M-16 rifle with live ammunition and communist documents from the scene. *Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated reainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 34° Lo 24°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 34° Lo 23°	Clark Zone HI 33° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 30° Lo 23°	Bacolod HI 33° Lo 26°	Roxas HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu HI 33° Lo 23°	Tacloban HI 34° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 33° Lo 23°	Davao HI 32° Lo 24°

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Pacificador starts campaign for Antique gov from prison

By Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Finding himself still in jail as the campaign for local candidates starts, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador makes use of modern technology, text messaging, to keep his campaign to become governor of Antique moving.

In the morning of March 29, Pacificador sent a text message to this correspondent, which he must have sent to many other people.

The message read: "One song can spark a moment. One idea can change a world. One step can start a journey and one vote can change a nation. VOTE PACIFICADOR 4 GOVERNOR! Pls pass."

The text message to this correspondent came a day after Pacificador complained in a telephone conversation with this reporter that the INQUIRER always reports news about him with a bias against him.

"*May slant gid kamo pirme* (you always have a slant). It has always been like that ever since," said Pacificador.

"Why do you have to keep on calling me 'mastermind' of these killings? You do not stick to the facts of the case," said Pacificador.

Pacificador was referring to the killing of nine people on the Pangpang Bridge in Silabom in 1984 which he was accused of masterminding. Pacificador was exonerated of the Pangpang killings in February because the court found no evidence linking him to the massacre.

Pacificador was forced to campaign from his jail after the new judge assigned to the Javier murder case did not grant him bail as campaign for local positions started.

Pacificador, a staunch ally of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is running for Antique governor under the strongman's party, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

Pacificador is detained at the Antique Provincial Jail in Binirayan Hills as the principal accused in the murder of Gov. Evelio Javier.

Javier was gunned down in broad daylight on the steps of the Provincial Capitol on Feb. 11, 1986 while he was overseeing the canvassing of votes in the snap elections.

Pacificador would not be relying on text messaging alone. In a written statement published in the Iloilo-based Panay News on Sunday, Pacificador said his leaders and Marcos loyalists would campaign for him.

"My leaders will do that (campaign) and (campaign for me) through radio," he said.

Pacificador, however, refused to name his campaign manager and political leaders, saying their identities were a "secret."

Pacificador is facing Sally Zaldivar Perez (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-People's Power Coalition) and incumbent Vice Gov. Damian Marfil (Reporma) in the race for governor. Marfil was a protégé of Pacificador when the latter was still an assemblyman and once deputy minister of public works and highways during the Marcos regime.

Pacificador told the local newspaper Panay News that the KBL had not given him any campaign funds but that the whole province and the "loyalist groups in all municipalities" were his bailiwicks.

Gov. Exequiel Javier, younger brother of Evelio, told the INQUIRER on Friday that Pacificador had every right to conduct his campaign from jail and that his supporters could visit him there

The provincial jail is under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

"He can even have his headquarters at the provincial jail, but that's strange," said Javier, who is running as representative of Antique's lone congressional district under the Lakas-NUCD.

Javier dismissed the possibility of Pacificador going out on bail because the offense he is accused of is non-bailable.

The Commission on Elections in Antique said there were no other prohibitions for a candidate campaigning in detention as long as he remained in jail.

"Pacificador's supporters can visit him. After all, the jail is open to the public," said a staffer of provincial election supervisor Lydia To-ong.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Campaign banned in feast venue

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The venue of the week-long annual Panaad sa Negros Festival in April has been declared a no-campaign zone to ensure a non-partisan atmosphere during the festivities, said Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela.

He said no campaign streamers and paraphernalia would be allowed to be posted at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Barangay Mansilingan, the venue of the festival that will start April 15 and will end April 22.

"We will stick to a very strict rule for the Panaad. Absolutely no campaign materials, including for us," he said. "Politics has nothing to do with the Panaad."

Coscolluela said that in 1998, then President Fidel Ramos was not allowed to bring any campaign material related to the presidential elections when he was guest at the Panaad Festival and the Palarong Pambansa, which were held simultaneously.

Ramos and all the participants honored that rule, he recalled.

This year, Coscolluela said the ban on campaign posters at the Panaad venue will be a test for Cirilo Nala, elections provincial supervisor, to show his political will in running after illegal campaign materials.

The Panaad, a Hiligaynon word for promise, is an annual celebration that showcases all the festivals in the province.

Each of the 13 cities and 19 towns is expected to send in delegates that will dance in the Panaad, representing the festival of their respective areas.

Preparations for the Panaad have been ongoing since last month. Most of the local officials, regardless of political affiliation, signed memoranda of agreement with the provincial government that they would send in delegations to the Panaad.

The provincial government is providing P100,000 as counterpart assistance to each of the participating local government units, Coscolluela said.

Fund shortage hounding bet

DIGOS CITY—Where is the money?

The election fever at the local level has officially started on March 31 but politicians are hardly spending their money.

Political stalwarts here said this could be the first election in years where election expenditures would be at its lowest.

"There is very limited fund. Even we in the administration ticket are on a belt-tightening program that the rule is to try minimizing expenses while maximizing our exposure," said Antonio Sunga, Lakas chair in the province.

Some of the measures being adopted by Lakas to minimize expenses could be seen in their campaign paraphernalia.

Sunga said instead of buying white cloth that normally costs P36 per meter for their streamers, Lakas candidates have resorted to recycling old rice sacks.

"If the sacks are too old to be recycled, then that's the time we buy new ones," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NO JOKE PHOTO FROM JOKER CAMPAIGN

The fire has not left the eyes of Joker Arroyo, a senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition, as he brings around in his campaign the call for clean government. It was a topic that transformed him into ousted President Joseph Estrada's toughest foe and which he recently discussed in a forum at a Cebu university.

₱15B in excess power fees collected from Visayas consumers, Enrile says

AT LEAST P15 billion in excess charges were collected from electricity consumers in the Visayas by the National Power Corp. as a result of questionable power purchase adjustment rates, according to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

In a statement, Enrile said newly appointed Napocor president Jesus Alcordo should immediately review and disclose the contributions to the power purchase adjustment being charged by the Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) in Leyte and by another firm, Salson Power, in Naga, Cebu.

Enrile, one of the legislators who oppose the proposed Omnibus Power Industry Bill, accused Napocor officials of abuse of discretion in the negotiation of independent power supply contracts with private firms.

He said most of these contracts contain what he said were these onerous terms:

- The PNOC-EDC contract for 600 megawatts of geothermal power in Leyte forces the Napocor to pay for 450 megawatts even if the Napocor only uses 350 megawatts.
- The costs for unused 100 megawatts of electricity are being passed on to consumers as power purchase adjustment.

In his statement, Enrile said the power supply contract was negotiated between two government corporations at terms that are clearly advantageous only to the PNOC-EDC and disadvantageous to consumers.

The contract with Salson Power in Naga, Cebu was negotiated using onerous rates, according to the senator. Based on Napocor data, the state-owned power firm lost P1 billion in 1998 alone as a result of the contract. Consumers were made to absorb the total losses that could run up to P3 billion in the past three years as a result of PPA charges.

Enrile said Salson Power claimed to have invested $60 million on the rehabilitation of the power complex owned by the Napocor in the town.

But he said the purchase value of the contract that the Napocor signed was still $90 million even after five years of operations.

The rate at which the Napocor agreed to buy electricity supplied by Salson, according to Enrile, approximates that of a power plant that is completely owned and operated by a private corporation.

"This is ridiculous. After five years of 24-hour operations by the Salson-rehabilitated power plant, no depreciation costs had been inputted by the Napocor," said Enrile.

The reelectionist senator said the Napocor should use President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent order suspending the PPA as an opportunity to review and excise all onerous PPA rates that had been passed on to consumers.

Mad cow disease boom for Masbate

MASBATE CITY—The mad cow disease scare, while wrecking havoc on the cattle industry in Europe, is boosting the economy of cattle-producing Masbate province.

Dr. Hernando Dorongon, assistant provincial veterinarian, told the INQUIRER that since July last year, there has been a steady increase in the demand for mad cow-free cattle in Masbate.

Dorongon said cattle buyers from Batangas, Pangasinan and Metro Manila are quickly snapping up their stock, advertising it as coming from Masbate.

Last year's shipment of cattle to these areas averaged 307 head per month, he said.

But since the middle of last year, the average climbed steadily by at least 10 percent per month.

Sales in December last year posted a record of 543 head due to a high demand for beef during the Christmas season.

He said Masbate cattle have also been preferred over imported stock from Australia and New Zealand for breeding purposes.

He said the price of and demand for Masbate beef rose further in October last year when it was reported that meat from Cebu was suspected of having mad cow disease.

Since that month, cattle priced between P7,000 and P8,000 per head rose to between P9,000 and P10,000 per head.

Even the local consumption of beef in Masbate has experienced a boost as eateries and restaurants serving *bulalo* had been reporting brisk business.

The local price of beef rose from P100 per kilo to P110 per kilo after the Christmas season.

The cattle population in Masbate is 87,000. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bail saves 'jueteng' financiers

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Nine suspected big-time jueteng financiers in Central Luzon have been arrested since February and police have failed to stop the courts from allowing the offenders to post bail.

A report from the regional police office here said suspected jueteng financiers Onofre Valenzuela, Mark Halili, Jimmy Laxamana, Nonie Viceo, Tony Santos, Donnie Galgana, Melchor "Ngongo" Caluag, Crisologo Ballesteros and Otto Balboa were arrested separately in Bulacan, Tarlac and Pampanga.

According to the report, Valenzuela Viceo, Santos and Galgana control the illegal numbers game in Marilao Pulilan and Meycauayan in Bulacan.

Santos operated previously in Marikina City in Metro Manila, intelligence sources in the regional police said.

Halili, Laxamana and Ballesteros reportedly control jueteng operations in Tarlac City, Sta. Ignacia and San Clemente towns in Tarlac province.

Caluag and Balboa operate the illegal numbers game from their base in the city of San Fernando and Apalit town in Pampanga, police said.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr. Central Luzon police director, said the nine men have posted bail ranging from P40,000 to 60,000, the amounts allowed by the anti-illegal gambling law, immediately after their arrests.

He said the police could not hold the offenders for a long time since there were "no evidence" that these suspected jueteng financiers have been giving campaign funds to election candidates.

It was difficult for the police to establish solid evidence to establish this, he admitted.

But Galang said the "total war" of the police against illegal gambling has served well in stopping the surge of jueteng during the election period. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Comelec blamed for cityhood flop

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Former Bulacan Rep. Angelito Sarmiento blamed the Commission on Elections and top officials of this town for the defeat of the cityhood bid of Meycauayan last week.

Sarmiento, now presidential adviser on agriculture development and modernization, authored Republic Act 9021 converting Meycauayan into a component city that was rejected by residents in a plebiscite held March 30.

He said had the Comelec heeded his call for the postponement of the plebiscite until after the May 14 elections, the people of Meycauayan could have fully understood the advantages of being a city through a longer information campaign.

He said because of an insufficient information campaign, residents here rejected the town's conversion into a city as they believed that cityhood would mean higher taxes for residents.

Sarmiento said President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the law converting Meycauayan into a component city of Bulacan on March 5, allowing only three weeks for the information campaign. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Considering the above facts, the allegation made definitely has no factual basis. The following table provides incontrovertible proof to the stability and viability of the System for years to come, in perpetuity.

	YEAR									
PARTICULARS ***(in billion pesos)***	**2000**	**2001**	**2003**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**	**2030**	**2040**
TOTAL INCOME	₱ 42.337	54.847	67.761	78.982	108.698	145.381	190.242	243.372	305.185	454.375
CLAIMS & BENEFITS	₱ 18.220	20.017	25.154	29.827	43.418	61.031	82.138	112.249	148.577	247.728
ADMIN EXPENSES	₱ 3.545	4.765	7.021	8.201	11.622	16.193	22.279	30.188	39.691	65.497
NET INCOME	₱ 20.572	30.064	35.586	40.954	53.658	68.158	85.826	100.935	116.918	141.150
FINANCIAL RESERVES	₱165.962	197.557	255.393	324.737	533.566	802.032	1,142.263	1,549.093	2,023.921	3,148.159

The total income of GSIS is derived from compulsory premium contributions, investments and many other sources.

Compulsory contributions alone can meet annual claims requirements. Income from investments and other sources are utilized to increase the GSIS financial reserves. All these point to the central truth that the GSIS is among the most viable agencies of government.

There was, is and shall never be any doubt about the capability of the GSIS to meet its obligations to its members for their pensions, benefits and loan requirements.

The above figures, showing the strong performance of the GSIS, should have been very obvious to people — especially those with vaunted expertise in finance.

The GSIS, serving its members, will live a thousand years — and more.

Government Service Insurance System

4 more witnesses to talk in drug case

(From page A1)

amine hydrochloride) that residents of Barangay Bignay II in Sariaya intercepted last year. *(Related story on Page A1.)*

After the picket, the two priests and Perpiñan went to the justice department to coordinate with the National Bureau of Investigation in the filing of drug charges against Alcala, Punzalan, Talaga and Alejandrino.

Reyes said Perpiñan was accepted into the government's Witness Protection Program but the announcement turned out to be false.

Perpiñan has only applied for inclusion in the program.

Perpiñan said the abduction of her sister convinced him to seek the Catholic Church's help and to tell the authorities about what he knew of drug trafficking in Quezon.

He arrived at the DOJ compound aboard a car. He refused to talk to reporters. He was later transferred to a heavily tinted vehicle and was whisked off to the NBI compound.

4 others to be charged

Perpiñan's lawyer, Neri Javier Colmenares, said they would also press drug charges against four Lucena policemen—Insp. Enrico Villanueva, investigators Nomer Pacia and a certain Diocos and Special Weapons and Tactics member Jay Formaran—as well as retired policeman Abel Aguilar.

Besides the drug charges, Alcala, Aguilar, Formaran, Diocos and Facia will be charged with the murder of three of Alcala's men, who were allegedly executed after they got the ire of the drug lord, according to Colmenares.

Formaran and Aguilar will also be charged with kidnapping.

Perpiñan said he recognized Formaran and Aguilar as among the four men who abducted his elder sister Victoriana on Tuesday.

"If they are saying they're innocent, then they will have their day in court," Enriquez said.

He said the suspects should not resort to character assassination and instead answer the allegations against them.

Doing a Chavit

"He (Perpiñan) is like (Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis) Chavit (Singson). They're all trying to destroy him," Enriquez said.

The priest urged the kidnappers of Victoriana to surrender, produce Perpiñan's sister alive, and turn state witness against Alcala.

Enriquez and Colmenares went to Camp Crame yesterday afternoon and sought Mendoza's help.

"(If) they (Quezon officials) already knew about Alcala, why did they not go after him?" he asked.

In Camp Crame, Mendoza said the police were looking into the possible involvement of "some influential people" in the country's "biggest drug haul" in Quezon last year.

The PNP chief said Raymond Tan, owner of the 365-kilo shipment of shabu, would be crucial in the investigation.

Tan, who is facing charges of illegal trafficking of drugs, is detained in Lucena City.

In a police report last year, Tan was accused of smuggling drugs from the Hong Kong Triad in China into Quezon.

But the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) seized the shipment with the help of Sariaya residents.

"Let us not overlook the possible connection of any drug syndicate with the 365-kilo shabu haul last year," Mendoza said. "The police will not stop until the real culprits behind the drug haul are identified."

Mendoza said the police were awaiting orders from the Department of Justice whether they would include Punzalan and other officials in the investigation based on Perpiñan's affidavit.

The CIDG is still evaluating the evidence so that it can decide whether to file administrative and criminal charges against Alejandrino.

The PNP is now coordinating with the Isafp in gathering evidence of drug trafficking in Quezon, according to Mendoza. *With a report from Cathy Yamsuan*

Gloria orders: Annihilate Abu

(From page A1)

lone American hostage, Jeffrey Craig Schilling.

The President was reacting to the threat of the Moro bandits to behead Schilling as a gift on her 54th birthday on April 5.

"My government will not be held hostage by a band of bandits. So that today, I have ordered an all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf and their gang of bandits," she announced yesterday.

"The full force of the law would be unleashed on them. We shall pursue every one of them relentlessly, pursue them and annihilate them," she said.

The President ordered the military to "take no prisoners except those who will willingly surrender."

The President made known her decision after a command conference with the military commanders in Camp Aguinaldo and after getting the green light from the United States government.

She talked with US charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski who said that his government was supporting her government's latest move.

The President said the war against the Abu Sayyaf is "the kind of war we cannot afford not to wage."

"Unlike other Muslim groups now headed toward the negotiating table for peace negotiations, the Abu Sayyaf is simply a money-crazed gang of criminals," she said.

"We will never ever negotiate with them," she stressed, noting that this group of bandits has no ideology.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes echoed the President's words. "We do not negotiate with terrorists," he said.

Not a joke

Unless the Saudi Arabia ambassador to the Philippines meets with the Moro extremist group, its spokesperson Abu Sabaya in Basilan, in an interview with dxRZ-Radyo Agong, said that it was time "for the beheading of Jeffrey. It will be on the President's birthday, like what we did during President Estrada's birthday last year."

On April 19 last year, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded two of its hostages as a birthday gift for Estrada's 63rd birthday.

Over dzRH radio, Sabaya said that the threat against Schilling "is not a joke."

The Abu Sayyaf demanded that Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the Philippines, Mohamad Al Ghamdi, negotiate for the release of Schilling and Roland Ullah, the remaining hostage of the 17 hostages seized from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan last April.

Schilling was allegedly seized while visiting the Abu Sayyaf lair in Patikul, Sulu, on Aug. 28 last year. There were reports that Schilling is not being held as a hostage, but is part of the Abu Sayyaf's foiled plan to raise ransom money.

Military officials have been puzzled by Schilling's relations with the Abu Sayyaf but said they still consider him a hostage.

The Abu Sayyaf has been angered by the refusal of the US and Philippine governments to pay S10-million in ransom for Schilling.

The group now claims that Schilling is gravely ill and coughing blood and has been unable to eat for months. They said Schilling has tried to kill himself several times and has developed heart problems.

More troops

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva said the government would be sending "additional troops" to the suspected Abu Sayyaf areas, but did not give details.

The difficulty in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf is that its members could easily "melt with the population," he said.

There are some 1,200 Abu Sayyaf members and supporters spread over the three islands of Jolo, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi. It is the smaller but more extremist of two Moro separatist groups in Mindanao. The government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front(MILF) are set to hold peace talks this month.

Villanueva said they would also try to rescue Ullah, a scuba diving instructor.

The President warned the Moro rebels not to harm the hostages. "If they think they can get away with it, they have another think coming," she said.

Ms Macapagal said that the military would be able to concentrate on the Abu Sayyaf with the suspension of military operations against the communist rebels and the MILF. *With reports from Inquirer wires*

Ping to prove conspiracy to pin Dacer case on him

Asked what the proposal was about, Estrada said that he and Dacer did not discuss it at any length. He added that because Dacer never discussed money with him, the proposal was coursed through Asistio.

Asistio, Estrada said, might have been embarrassed to ask for money in connection with the proposal, since the congressman never showed the proposal to him.

Estrada, in an interview in Cebu City, also turned the tables on former President Fidel Ramos, who had accused him of having a hand in Dacer's disappearance, by noting two supposedly "suspicious" incidents involving Ramos.

The first, Estrada said, concerned an appointment of Ramos with Dacer on the day that the PR man was allegedly kidnapped.

Estrada suggested that the appointment was part of a "psy-war" operation to provide Ramos with an alibi on Nov. 24.

"That is very suspicious. According to Ampy, (Dacer's) daughter and my godchild, it was Ramos' first time at her daddy's office. What was he doing there?" Estrada said, speaking in Taglish.

The second unusual event, the ousted President claimed, concerned the timing of former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte when he revealed the contents of a letter supposedly sent by Dacer.

The revelation, Estrada noted, came months after the disappearance of the PR man.

"That is why I am not even bothered a bit. Imagine, Almonte comes out with this letter now. But how many months has it been since Bubby disappeared?" he told reporters in an interview at a hotel in Cebu City.

Another letter

Ramos met with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday afternoon at the justice department to discuss the Dacer case.

He said he submitted documents for Perez's perusal, including another letter from Dacer, this time addressed to Ramos, detailing alleged threats made by certain parties he had apparently offended.

Ramos did not go into specifics. He said the documents he surrendered to Perez were "a matter for the NBI to evaluate."

In a news conference after the meeting, Ramos also gave his version of the events on the morning of Dacer's disappearance.

He recalled that he had a speaking engagement at the Bayview Hotel, a few blocks away from Dacer's Manila Hotel office.

Ramos said that on the way to the forum, he began drafting a statement in defense of retired Gen. Fortunato Abat who was then in the middle of a word war with then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado.

After finishing the draft, Ramos said, he called Dacer on his cell phone to ask whether he could have the statement typed up at Dacer's office.

Ramos' request prompted Dacer to invite him to lunch, the former president said. They also agreed to meet about a postponed golf tournament that they wanted to reschedule, according to the former president.

Affidavits

Banayo said the Lacson camp's witnesses had already executed affidavits indicating that a conspiracy was involved in the Dacer case.

Asked who was behind the alleged conspiracy against Lacson and Estrada, Banayo replied: "The administration camp, specifically the Lakas-NUCD party and the People Power Coalition."

Banayo claimed that Ramos, not Estrada, had the motive to get rid of Dacer. Ramos, he speculated, might have been angry with Dacer for supporting Estrada.

"I would raise that as a possibility. Maybe they discovered that Bubby Dacer would join Estrada and would leave Ramos and Jose Almonte," Banayo said, referring to Ramos' former national security adviser.

Banayo claimed he was there when Dacer went to Malacañang to talk to Estrada on Nov. 22.

The conversation lasted for 45 minutes, said Banayo, who claimed he was standing eight meters away from Dacer and Estrada. He said he never heard any argument or any voices raised.

After speaking with Estrada, Banayo recalled, the PR man told him: "*O brother, magsama-sama na tayo, tulungan na natin iyong boss mo.* (Let's work together, let us help your boss)."

Joking around

Estrada told reporters that he had had a long and close relationship with Dacer, adding that in their last talk in Malacañang, they were even joking around.

"Ampy would be the best witness. And her husband," the deposed President said.

Ampy, however, had claimed that Estrada berated Dacer that night.

But Estrada said that he even told Dacer that he understood that the publicist had a job to do and even joked that Dacer could not dent his popularity.

"I don't think you have the talent" to hurt my popularity," Estrada said he told Dacer.

"That was how close we were," he told reporters.

The early morning interview took place at the hotel's piano bar where Estrada was unwinding after an opposition campaign rally that was held on Sunday night.

Gun trained on Ping

At one point during his news conference, Ramos trained his guns on Lacson, faulting him for his failure to respond quickly to Ramos' faxed report on Dacer's disappearance hours after the abduction.

But on Sunday night, Lacson told a crowd of supporters:

"They have accused me of being involved in the case even before they start their investigation."

He also said that the Macapagal administration was trying to drag down his colleagues based only on the statements of two suspects.

Banayo said the Macapagal administration wanted to pin the Dacer case on Lacson because electoral survey results had shown that the former Philippine National Police chief had a very high rating.

'Not insinuating'

During his meeting with Perez, "I suggested questions that beg to be asked," Ramos told the news conference after the meeting.

He said the questions included who had "planned, directed or financed" the alleged murder scheme, who "actually carried out" the plot, and why the Estrada administration had a "lukewarm attitude" toward efforts to find the culprits.

But "I'm not insinuating anything here," Ramos said. "I leave that to the investigating authorities. "

The former president added that he "did not come here (to the DOJ) to make political hay out of the situation. I'm only here because there is a breakthrough in the case."

Asked whether he suspected that Estrada and Lacson had been part of a plot to kill Dacer, Ramos said, "I have my own assessment but I'd like to keep it in my pocket in the meantime."

"I'm not here for (the purpose of spreading) black propaganda. I'm making these statements to help the Dacer family and also to vindicate him, as he is also a close friend," Ramos also said.

He said he had decided to raise questions following the confessions of suspect-witnesses Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy.

The two claimed that members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which was headed by Lacson at the time, strangled Dacer and Corbito with electric cords before setting fire to the corpses.

Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Gregorio Honasan urged an end to the word war between Ramos and Estrada, saying that it served only to muddle the case.

"This is a conflict between two presidents and partisanship is beginning to be very obvious," Honasan said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Christine Avendaño, Jowel Canuday*

Imee: We know nothing of Irene trip

(From page A1)

ther the investigation nor Irene's trip to Germany in February, her sister, Rep. Imee Marcos, said yesterday.

She confirmed that her family knew "nothing" about the Araneta couple's trip to Dusseldorf, where Irene and her husband, Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta, allegedly tried to transfer huge sums of money from a Swiss account into a Deutsche Bank account.

"As Bongbong (Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.) has said repeatedly to the INQUIRER and other newspapers, the truth of the matter is we were completely dumbfounded by this occurrence and up to today, we know nothing about it," Imee said.

She defended her sister, saying that the Marcos family had never taken "too seriously" the claims about the family's alleged billions of dollars in Swiss accounts.

A source close to the Marcos family had earlier said that Greggy would be asked to explain the trip to Dusseldorf.

In a press conference at the Marcos mansion here Sunday, Imee took the opportunity to slam Irene's accusers, primarily Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

The Aranetas and two American businessmen linked by Jacobi to the alleged money-laundering deal plan to sue him for fraud, claiming that he made up the allegations to lure investors into an "ill-gotten wealth recovery" scam.

"*Ang kototohanan, mas nabubuko sila kaysa sa* Marcos wealth (The truth is that they are being exposed, instead of the Marcos wealth). This whole 'adventuring,' if you like, is more revealing of the greed and ignorance of those who insist on the existence of the Marcos wealth," Imee told reporters.

Imee, the eldest daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, called the reports on the alleged $13.2-billion Irene account "outrageous" and "absurd."

"I think our national budget at that time was just a few billion pesos. *Kahit kurakutin yung buong* budget, *'di pa mabubuo yung* $13 billion *na yon* (Even if you stole the whole budget, it wouldn't add up to $13 billion)," she said, referring to her late father's 20-year rule.

$35-M assets in US

In Hawaii, another case involving the Marcoses has taken another legal turn.

A US district judge has ordered the deposition of officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to prove that $35 million worth of disputed Arelma assets in the custody of the court belong to the Philippine government.

Judge Manuel Real has directed PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento and research director Danilo Daniel, as well as the government's Swiss lawyer Martin Kurer, to "provide expedited documents and depositions" to allow the Hawaii court to decide on the ownership dispute.

Another Hawaii court earlier dismissed the PCGG's motion to bar Real from hearing the interpleader case filed by Merrill Lynch Inc.

The PCGG had argued that Real had a bias for nearly 10,000 human rights abuse victims who were also claimants.

But Robert Swift, lawyer for the 9,539 victims, said Real "blasted the PCGG for its tactics" to disqualify the judge and get its hands on the Marcos loot.

Punzalan: It's like I killed all my 5 kids

(From page A1)

PUNZALAN

her family's political opponents.

"These are all lies. My unrelenting campaign against drugs has understandably earned the displeasure of lawbreakers and turned me into a convenient target for the well-financed machinery of drug lords and their political cohorts in the province," Punzalan said.

He said he was consulting his lawyers to find out what counter-charges could be filed against Perpiñan.

Punzalan said he or his relatives were not involved in the illegal drug trade. He said that he himself would have his brother Boyet arrested if his sibling was involved in drugs.

Alejandrino earlier told the INQUIRER that the congressman was under investigation after his brother was tagged in the killing of a suspected drug dealer in their town.

Relief of police chief

Punzalan said that he was dissatisfied with Alejandrino's performance and that he had asked Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza to relieve him right after People Power II.

He cited the murder of his chief of security in broad daylight in Sariaya last year and the appearance of the dreaded Bonnet Gang as proof of the province's deteriorating peace and order situation.

Punzalan used this reported tiff between him and the provincial police director in defending himself against Perpiñan's allegations.

"Why should I demand his relief if I was in cahoots with him in protecting the crime syndicate?" Punzalan asked.

He also said that he could not have visited Alcala's home because he did not know its location in Quezon.

The congressman, who is in his last term, added that he could not have dined with Alcala at the Aristocrat Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

"Why, of all the places, would I meet a drug lord in such a public place? I have a name to protect," Punzalan said.

No logic

"So you see, where is the logic in Perpiñan's charges? If he has evidence that I was there, then I dare him to show it," he said.

Punzalan said his family's old political enemies could be behind the smear campaign.

In a statement, the congressman mentioned that a Ronelo Añonuevo, convicted of killing his father in 1984, was related to one of his wife's rivals in the coming May elections.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada paroled Añonuevo after serving only five months of his two life-term sentences. Punzalan said his "influential political enemies" had a hand in the release.

He also bewailed the fact that the Catholic Church in Quezon had "played into the hands of those who have no qualms about preying on the kindness of our good Fathers to promote their political ends."

Alejandrino said "all the information provided by Jonathan Perpiñan's affidavit were all lies."

"Why were his words taken without any iota of doubt and without even informing us of his accusations? I'm now telling this to all of Jonathan's guardians, *may topak yang taong yan*," the police officer, a member of class 75 of the Philippine Military Academy, kept on repeating as he blankly stared at the printed newsprint in front of him.

"What will now happen to my family? To all my children?" in-between sobs, he asked the INQUIRER in an early morning interview.

'Kabayan': All we had was hearsay

(From page A1)

DE CASTRO

As a matter of policy MGB does not air half-baked stories, according to De Castro.

"If I were to do something foolish to the segment, I would have to get past the writer, researcher, cameraman and production assistant. The writer was Dewie Chang, a fresh graduate from the University of the Philippines. She's an intelligent and idealistic woman," De Castro said in Filipino during the conference.

In Manila, Chang, also an MGB segment producer, said that MGB had a "track record of 12 years of truthful and responsible journalism."

"We do not air stories that are half-baked, thus the editorial judgment was made not to air the story until we could substantiate the reports with solid witnesses or hard facts," she said.

She said "the shabu bust in Sariaya was initially aired over TV Patrol (another ABS-CBN primetime program) sometime in September last year."

'Trash'

"Since MGB's format is different from the traditional newscasts and gives (more weight) to timeliness, freshness and enterprise factor of a story, MGB decided not to air the Sariaya story," Chang explained.

Chang recalled that the MGB crew stayed in Sariaya for three days and went as far as Pagbilao, Quezon.

"It was unfortunate that we did not find residents who were credible and brave enough to give us factual and detailed accounts of past smuggling activities in the area. The stories they told us were either hearsay or third hand information," she said.

De Castro said the issue was being revived to destroy his candidacy.

"I pity my detractors who cannot come up with anything substantial against me. They had to go back to make do with this trash," De Castro said in a statement.

He said the MGB sent a reply when the story about its decision not to run the segment on the drug bust first came out in the INQUIRER. It was published in the Letters to the Editor section.

"What is painful was that the INQUIRER did not publish it on the front page," he said in the press conference. *With a report from Jerry Esplanada*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Bong boycott

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOT sound.

I refer to the reported plan of Bong Tan to boycott the PBA meeting tomorrow.

In the first place, the meeting was called primarily to clear the air regarding Bong's beef with the league and Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

In the second place, his appearance will give him the chance to concretize his claim that San Miguel Beer is a "favored son" of Bernardino.

In the third place, Bong's non-appearance will prove that his outburst last week was just that—an outburst. Nothing but empty talk.

Bong should come forward and put teeth to his allegations. He shouldn't be scared of speaking out his mind. Again. This is a free country anyway. You can say what you want to say for as long as you don't libel (slur?) a person. Or degrade the name of a non-person, in this case the PBA itself. Include SMB.

Did Bong libel Jun B when Bong accused Jun B of playing favorites with SMB?

I don't think so.

Bong was simply expressing an opinion. Now, if Bong decides to present documentary proof tomorrow to support his opinion, that is another matter. Materiality and relevancy, the nation's favorite words during the infamous impeachment trial of Erap, will again crop up in our midst if Bong will do that.

Did Bong put both SMB and the PBA in a bad light with those "playing favorites" and "San Miguel league" utterances in the course of his verbal outburst?

I don't think so. For, again, Bong was simply expressing an opinion.

The PBA board can sanction Bong for what might be called a crime of indiscretion. The governors can always claim that the PBA has become an institution and, therefore, for it to absorb a blast from one of its own is appalling, to say the least. To them, Bong's verbal blast at the league could be likened to Cardinal Sin hitting the Church.

Blasphemous.

I am sure that the governors—majority of them, anyway—want to hear it straight from Bong. Did he really say what the papers said he said? If the answer is yes, did he mean every word he uttered?

Only Bong can provide the answers so that it is imperative that he be present in the meeting.

Bong boycotting the meeting will be construed an unmanly act, if not downright ungentlemanly.

Bong Tan a chicken?

Yes. That is, if he doesn't show up tomorrow.

Samaranch due April 10

THE INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee yesterday confirmed Juan Antonio Saramanch's visit to the country before he steps down as the IOC president in June. Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit said Samaranch and five other ICC executives will enplane to Manila from Fiji Island aboard a private jet on April 10.

SALARY CAP

Tanduay welcomes PBA probe

TANDUAY Gold welcomed yesterday the PBA's investigation on the alleged salary cap violations committed by Tanduay in the Philippine Basketball Associaton.

In a statement, Tanduay said it was willing "to cooperate so that this case will finally be resolved."

The investigation was triggered by Jayvee Gayoso's exposé alleging that Tanduay gave him more than what was stipulated in his player's contract with the Rhummasters last year.

Here's Tanduay's statement in full:

"We welcome the investigation being made by the PBA Commissioner's Office on this allegation and we are willing to cooperate so that this case will finally be resolved.

"We maintain that we have not violated the PBA salary cap as corroborated by earlier testimonies of Mr. Alfredo Jarencio and others who have come before the PBA fact-finding committee to shed light on this issue.

"We have not been furnished with the documents said to have been submitted by Mr. Jayvee Gayoso. As such, we are not in the position to comment on them. Once we are given the chance to go over these documents, we will present our position before the fact-finding committee, if and when we are called to do so. We are also trying to get Mr. David de Joya's side on this as these allegations happened during his time.

"Mr. Gayoso has been a good member of the Tanduay organization, a fact that we considered when we offered to settle his contract with a fairly reasonable price, which he accepted.

"It is unfortunate that Tanduay and the PBA continue to be dragged into controversies that are not helping the image of both entities in any way. Tanduay management is sincere in its desire to be a good member of the PBA family. Wayward emotions and certain personal interests should not be taken against Tanduay's sincerity of purpose. Doing so is doing injustice to the greater number of Tanduay team officials and players who continue to work hard for the team and the league."

Shark seeks 3rd win

BY DENNIS U. EROA

STANDINGS

	W	L
Shark	2	0
Ateneo	1	0
GIV Soap	1	0
Montaña	1	1
Ana Freezer	1	1
Hapee	1	1
PharmaQuick	0	1
Osaka	0	1
Welcoat	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—GIV vs Osaka Iridology
5:30 p.m.—Shark vs PharmaQuick

SHARK Energy Drink tests the new-found strength of PharmaQuick today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

High-leaping Bruce Dacia, formerly with the MBA champion San Juan Knights, is expected to inject life back to PharmaQuick.

But PharmaQuick might play today minus Omanzie Rodriguez, who is with the RP Team playing in the ongoing Seaba Championship.

Gametime is 5:30 p.m., after the 3:30 p.m. clash between GIV Beauty Soap and Osaka Iridology.

GIV is eyeing its second straight win after a successful debut against PharmaQuick.

RP beats Singapore

THE PHILIPPINE Men's Team started off-key, but found its rhythm along the way yesterday to waylay Singapore, 112-70, in the 4th South East Asia Men's Basketball Championship.

Getting their first taste of international play, the Filipinos trailed up to the second quarter, 37-33, before revving up their attack to the delight of the crowd who packed the Rizal Memorial Coliseum to the rafters.

Duke, Arizona dispute crown

SOMEBODY asked Lute Olson what Arizona's biggest challenge would be against a Duke team few opponents have stopped this season.

Five minutes later, Olson wrapped up his reply.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski has a similar laundry list about Arizona's strong points.

Such is life when the two teams, considered the best in the country in the preseason actually, make it to the NCAA title game.

Sure, there have been good matchups in the past, but the Duke-Arizona final today has been almost universally regarded one of the most exquisitely balanced championship games anyone can remember.

"I'm sure it's going to be a very interesting 40 minutes for everyone," Olson said.

Arizona was ranked first and Duke second in the preseason poll. The Wildcats had some well-documented problems along the way, while Duke made it through with only four defeats despite the temporary loss of starting center Carlos Boozer to a foot injury. *AP*

VALHANDUMON

ROBINSON (right) of Shark uses his quickness to elude Dondon Mendoza of Ana Freezer in their recent PBL Chairman's Cup game at the Makati Coliseum. Shark won, 71-61.

₱1 million for 'Glu' winner

THIS time, the winner of the Glutaphos Philippine Chess Grand Prix will pocket P1 million.

"It's guaranteed. We don't want a repeat of last year's incident," said Manuel Salazar, president and chief operating officer of the sponsoring Pascual Laboratories Inc. during yesterday's press conference at the DILG main offices in QC

Grandmaster Joey Antonio got only P800,000 from his promised prize of P1 million for topping last year's edition.

The format of the event, presented by brain vitamin Glutaphos, will be seven-round knockout matches. For details, call the PCF at 844-7481 or Pascual Laboratories Inc. at 926-9451. *Roy Luarca*

Mitsubishi Lancer netfest on

THE 12TH Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships unwraps today with Adidas Phils. presenting 56 world-ranked campaigners from 21 nations and eight locals at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

No. 46 Jonathan Chu and No. 62 Prakash Amritraj, both from the USA, in the boys' division and No. 1 Angelique Widjaja of Indonesia in the girls' section, will be gunning for the top award of 100 ITF points during the series.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Tennis star Andre Agassi, Formula One daredevil David Coulthard and golfer Steve McCarron raise their trophies symbolic of their victories scored around the world. Agassi won his in the Ericsson Open in Florida, Coulthard in the Interlagos Grand Prix in Brazil and Steve McCarron in the Belle South Classic in Canada. AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Championship Game at 9:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA—New York Knicks vs Portland Trailblazers at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: The Masters Official Films - 1998 at 7 a.m. (r—12:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

PGA - Bellsouth Classic, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

HOCKEY: NHL—Colorado Avalanche vs Edmonton Oilers at 7 a m (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: MLB - Oakland Athletics vs Seattle Mariners at 10 a.m., San Diego Padres vs San Francisco Giants at 11 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

2nd Nestea Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships

QUARTERFINALS

Country/Team			Score
Japan 1	def.	China 2	21-14, 21-13
China 1	def.	Thailand 1	23-25, 21-15, 16-14
Thailand 2	def.	Australia 2	21-17, 21-14
Indonesia 1	def.	Australia 1	21-14, 21-17
Thailand 1	def.	Thailand 2	21-17, 22-20
China 2	def.	Indonesia 1	16-21, 21-14, 15-12

SEMI-FINALS

Japan 1	def.	Thailand 1	22-24, 21-19, 15-12
China 2	def.	China 1	16-21, 21-16, 15-13

Find out who among these teams will emerge as the champions of the 2nd NESTEA Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships!

SPORTSWATCH

Blue Jays defeat Rangers, 8-1

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Alex Rodriguez's season in the spotlight began with a thud. Two of them. The $ 252 million shortstop made a throwing error on his first fielding chance of the season and tripped to the turf twice in his debut with the Texas Rangers, an 8-1 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday in the US major league baseball opener in Puerto Rico. The crowd of 19,891 was treated to nearly an hourlong pregame show that included music, dancing, costumed figures, three national anthems and the unveiling of signs honoring Roberto Clemente and Orlando Cepeda, the only Puerto Ricans in the Hall of Fame. *AP*

Knicks stun Lakers, 79-78

LOS ANGELES— The inconsistent New York Knicks ended a five-game road trip with a stunning 79-78 win over the reigning NBA champions Los Angeles Lakers yesterday. The Lakers' Kobe Bryant came back after missing five games because of an ankle injury. But the Knicks held him scoreless in the first quarter before he aggravated his injury and did not return. Without Bryant, the Lakers could not get the ball to center Shaquille O'Neal. Knicks guard Latrell Sprewell said: "The bottom line is that we've been in three close games on this road trip and we were able to pull out two of them. I'll take that." **COMPLETE RESULTS** Charlotte 80, Boston 79; Minnesota 99, Portland 95; Utah 92, Vancouver 73; New York 79, LA Lakers 78; Orlando 104, Toronto 101; Detroit 104, Golden State 87; New Jersey 101, Houston 98; Phoenix 106, Milwaukee 99; Dallas 119, Sacramento 107; Philadelphia 104, Indiana 93. *AFP/Reuters*

Zamboanga's Fernando ahead

ANTHONY Fernando of Zamboanga lived up to his top billing as he took the first round lead in the Visayas Regional Qualifying Tournament of the National Age Group Golf Championship yesterday at the Cebu Country Club. Fernando, a former quarterfinalist in the national amateur championships, fired a two-over-par 74 on nines of 36 and 38 to post a two-shot lead in the 36-hole event for the 15 to 18 years old age category. Cebuano JJ Alvarez is two strokes back with his 76 on nines of 37 and 39. He will be paired with Fernando in today's final round.

Intervillage golf tomorrow

THE INTERVILLAGE golf tournament, the popular golf competition among Metro Manila's exclusive residential villages, enters its 10th year tomorrow with a record field of 44 villages and close to 600 golfers seeing action in the three month qualifying phase. Alaxan will be the major sponsor of the series, which will unfold in four divisions comprising the Metropolis-wide competition. These are Makati with nine villages, North sector with 10, East with 11 and South with 13. Monte Vista is the defending champion, topping the grand finals last year at Canlubang.

Starwars derby tonight

PARTNERS Patrick Antonio and Tony Litonjua will play host to the "9th Ucap/Sagupaan Winning Line-Starwars Sagupaan 6-Cock Derby" at the Mandaluyong Coliseum today, with more than 40 fights set beginning at 6 p.m. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

The derby comes on the heels of the "Sir Richard Sa Ucap 4-Cock Derby" won by Campanero of Gary Reyes.

A banner crowd is expected tonight, the ninth of 12 Ucap derbies, which will serve as basis in selecting the Ucap Cocker of the Year 2001.

Volley on '13'

THE FINALS of the Nesten Asian Beach Volleyball Championship between Japan and China will be telecast at 9 p.m. today over Viva Television-IBC 13 right after the highly rated game show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire."

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Traffic enforcers for Holy Week

OPERATORS of the Skyway and the North and South Luzon Tollways will field in additional traffic enforcers and motorist assistance groups to ease up traffic and prevent accidents in the Holy Week. The Philippine National Construction Company, operator of the North and South Luzon Tollways, will detail additional motorcycle patrol units and traffic enforcers in key areas of the expressways.

- **Has Nathanael Santiago sold out?**
- **No success against taxi holdup men in Quezon City**

- **2 guards killed in cowboy-style duels**
- **Fired cop behind holdups nabbed**

Page A18

Kuratong evidence rotting at Crame

'The logbook could prove there was no running gun battle'

By Dave M. Veridiano

VITAL evidence supporting witnesses' testimony that 8 of the 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang were alive at the time the alleged 1995 gun battle took place in Parañaque and Quezon cities is rotting inside a Camp Crame stockroom, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

The material evidence is a logbook that contained entries of what transpired at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame on the evening of March 17, 1995 until dawn the next day:

Among the entries in the logbook on that day was the coming and going of a convoy of at least five vehicles which were later reported to have been used in the alleged rubout of 11 suspected members of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng Gang.

The gang was said to be one of the most deadly kidnap-for-ransom groups to have emerged in the early '90s. Gang members, mostly natives of Ozamis province in Mindanao, also took part in bank robberies.

A former camp policeman revealed the existence of the logbook, claiming he read the entries taken down by the duty officer for the night.

The camp policeman identified the duty officer as Chief Insp. Rolando Silva, formerly assigned with the Criminal Investigation Service, forerunner of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

This information was later confirmed by another PNP officer who said Silva had confided to him that it was standard operating procedure to log in information regarding troop movements, especially those that appear to be going to or have just come from an operation.

Silva and those privy to the logbook chose to keep quiet at the height of the much-publicized controversy.

No one among the five camp commanders who had been appointed to the post since the 1995 incident got the chance to read Silva's logbook, until the INQUIRER stumbled onto it.

'The entries in the logbook could definitely prove that no running gun battle, as Lacson and his boys claimed, took place, and that at least eight of the victims were indeed alive when they entered Camp Crame on the night they were arrested in Parañaque," the source said.

The eight men left the camp a few hours later and were reported to have been killed in a "shootout" that same morning, the source added.

Members of the now defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Habagat under then Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson, along with members of the CIDG and Traffic Management Group, claimed they had a running gun battle with 11 Kuratong Baleleng gang men on the night of March 18, 1995.

The lawmen said they shot it out with the suspects from Parañaque City to Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

But their claims differed from witnesses' accounts that the 11 gang men did not die from a shootout with lawmen, but were victims of a cold-blooded "rubout."

Lacson and 97 other PNP personnel were slapped with multiple murder charges for the death of the 11 gang men. But the case did not prosper in court when then PACC chief and vice president Joseph Estrada became head of state.

All the witnesses later retracted their statements. SPO2 Eduardo Delos Reyes fled to Canada where he made his retraction. Newsman Mandy Capili, who later on became a jeepney operator and a civilian agent of the PAOCTF, also retracted his testimony. SPO4 Corrie dela Cruz suffered from a heart ailment and was reportedly hospitalized before he made his retraction.

Most of the accused lawmen went on to occupy sensitive posts in the police hierarchy, including Lacson whom Estrada named as his PNP chief.

When Estrada was ousted from power, the Kuratong Baleleng case was revived. Since then, two new witnesses have emerged, saying the "shootout" was indeed a "rubout" and Lacson was the mastermind.

The two witnesses submitted sworn statements, prompting the Department of Justice to consider formally reopening the case against Lacson and his co-accused.

Also, the DOJ said more witnesses have expressed their willingness to come out and testify on what they know about the alleged "shootout."

Lacson and his co-accused have since denied the allegations and flatly branded the reopening of the case as part of a government-backed demolition job against him to upset his chances of winning a senatorial seat in the May 14 election.

A PILE of firearms used as evidence in Kuratong Baleleng case.

2 more killed in new Coastal Road crash

By Alcuin Papa

A VEHICULAR accident claimed two lives at the Coastal Road in Parañaque City yesterday two weeks after 14 people were killed by a wayward truck in the same area.

The deaths came after a jeepney slammed into a stalled truck, Senior Insp. Erma Marquez, chief of the Parañaque Police Traffic Division, said. Four other persons were injured.

The fatalities were identified as Lilia Capiente, 35, married, of Barangay Paliparan, Dasmariñas Cavite; and Ramon Soria, 45, also of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Capiente died on the scene of the accident due to massive head and body injuries while Soria was rushed to the San Juan De Dios Hospital where she succumbed to injuries.

Injured were Pedro Molo, 39, married; Rodrigo Barlongan, 28, married; Saturnino Dueno, 28, married; Dennis Reyes 31, married, all of Barangay Palipamn, Dasmariñas, Cavite. They were brought to the San Juan De Dios Hospital.

Marquez said that a trailer truck with Plate No. PXJ-107 belonging to Micro Industrial Traders and Handlers Company driven by Venancio Palar, 34, of 246 E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City had stalled on the northbound lane of the Coastal Road in San Dionisio, Parañaque at around 5:45 a.m. yesterday.

Although the truck was able to park on the road's shoulder, part of it still took up road space. Palar was reportedly driving without a license.

The passenger jeepney with Plate No. DWD-149 driven by Herminio Edrial, 37, married, of San Marino, Dasmariñas, Cavite, was speeding down the area when it hit the stalled truck. The impact caused major damage to the jeepney's right where the fatalities and most of those injured were seated.

Edrial told Marquez that he didn't see the stalled truck. He admitted having driven too fast.

Marquez told the Inquirer that both drivers were put under the custody of the Parañaque police and will face charges of reckless impudence resulting in double homicide, physical injuries, and damage to property.

On March 19, 14 people were killed when a tanker truck plowed though a busy fisherman's wharf where commuters were waiting for ride on the Coastal Road's southbound lane.

The truck also plowed through four other vehicles and caused a fire that burned most of the fatalities. The driver of the killer truck surrendered to police after having gone into hiding for three days.

The travails of Ted Failon

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

BROADCASTER Noli *"Kabayan"* de Castro, an independent senatorial candidate, is leading in all surveys.

De Castro, very fluent in Filipino, speaks and writes no English. His inarticulateness in English was apparently the reason he refused to be drawn into a public debate with reelectionist Sen. Frank Drilon. The Ilonggo senator has challenged the senatorial candidate from Mindoro to a debate, whether in Tagalog or English.

If he wins, the former ABS-CBN Filipino news reader will be an addition to the growing ranks of semi-literate people in the Senate. And if surveys are anything to go by, De Castro is a sure winner.

Kawawa naman ang Pilipinas !

* * *

Not all television anchors who are running in the May 14 elections are semi-literate, though.

Ted Failon, who became known for hosting the very popular "Hoy Gising" public service program at ABS-CBN Channel 2, is running for Congress in Leyte's first district.

Unlike Noli, Ted is fluent in both English and Filipino, not to mention Waray, his native tongue. Failon is a law student.

But unlike Noli, Ted is fighting an uphill battle. He is pitted against a member of the powerful Romualdez clan.

* * *

Ted, whose daughter Tedrina is my goddaughter in baptism, has written to me about his travails on the campaign trail.

Ted Failon's letter:

"Dear Pareng Mon,

"Just got back from the barrios of Alang-Alang, one of the seven towns within the boundaries of the first district. Other towns include Palo, Tanauan, Tolosa, Sta. Fe, San Miguel, Babatngon and Tacloban City. There are approximately 160,000 voters in the district, 40 percent of whom come from Tacloban City.

"Don't ask me now, *pare*, but I know you're one of those surprised why I decided to seek an elective post. Why not? It was indeed a tough decision. Amid negative reaction from my family, I insisted to join the fray. Perhaps after everything is finished, I can ask you for a drink so we can talk more about it (that is, if I ever get out of this alive).

"I am running as an independent candidate, i.e., I have to field my own (two) watchers per precinct. With 980 plus precincts, I will be spending more than a million pesos a day on the day of the counting and every single day that the canvassing is delayed. Plus all the materials, airtime and so many things to keep the machinery working, I will be needing a huge sum of money. These are, however, legitimate election expenses. Money for election expenses I can raise through my many friends and supporters. What I don't have is the money to buy votes.

"I joined this exercise believing I can be "the factor" in changing the attitude of our *kababayan* voters. I will never buy votes! *Kung ganon din lang, ano pa ang pinagkaiba ko sa kanila*? Some people laugh, because they never believe I can run a serious campaign, or at least have a good chance of winning if I won't buy votes. Here they say it's a must."

[Failon said his camp is prepared to "neutralize" vote-buying by his opponents, but he would not say what actions he would take because he did not want to "telegraph my punches."

He accused Rep. Alfred Romualdez of being in charge of a smear campaign against him. He also belittled Romualdez's capability to speak and act for his constituents)

"*Sinanay na ng mga* Romualdez *ang mga botante dito*," Failon said. "Last election, Alfred Romualdez, son-in-law of Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales of the infamous "sampal" incident in Congress, wiped out all the towns in the district! He won, and so did his father Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, and so did all of his mayoral bets in the district. They allegedly bought votes for P400 each!"

Continued Faylon: "We have prepared some 'neutralizers' *sa kalokohan ng mga taong ito*. And, of course, I don't want to telegraph my punches. *Malalaman na lang natin kung tatalab* on election day.

"*Hindi ko lang lubos maisip, pare, na sa dinami-dami ng kaso ni* Bejo, why can these people still flaunt their wealth? *Saan nanggagaling ang daang milyong ginagastos nila*? Alfred is even boasting now that he spent last election just to see to it that he retained the seat this election. Wow! Last election he was said to have spent P100 million!

"I cannot fight the Romualdezes peso for peso, Mon. I cannot promise our constituents anything but my sincerity to serve and be an active representative of Leyte in Congress. Would you believe, this husband of Kring Kring was elected by the Warays even though he doesn't know how to speak Waray)! *Sus, Ginoo*

"Mon, this guy doesn't even know what *lugit* (copra) means! Would you believe that? Eighty percent of our constituents are farmers and he doesn't know the meaning of lugit!

"*Padi*, help me break this dynasty and be part of the writing of history of Leyte. *Wala pang nakakatalo sa mga dambuhalang ito na puro pagyayabang lang ng pera ang ginagawa.*

"Take care. I'll keep in touch.

PADI"

Not all television anchors who are running in the May 14 elections are semi-literate

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TUESDAY, APRIL 3 912-8983

No success vs taxi holdup men

By Philip C. Tubeza

AS Quezon City police yesterday announced the fall of two notorious car thieves, four unidentified men robbed and stabbed to death a taxi driver in front of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) building on Commonwealth Avenue.

Golden Faith taxi driver Alex C. Maunay, 31, of 29 Road 23, Project 8 in Quezon City, died after the suspects stabbed him twice in the back, said investigator Supt. Renato Lozada, chief of the Anonas police station intelligence and investigation branch.

Maunay died a few hours before Chief Supt. Victor Luga, Central Police District (CPD) director, presented yesterday morning to media suspected car thieves Joel O. Bosines, 27, and Armando R. Celeste, 47, both of Quezon City, at Camp Karingal.

Bosines and Celeste allegedly stole the Tamaraw FX of taxi operator Eladio D. Dupalco, 54, in front of the Fairview Mall on Saturday. But a quick follow-up operation led to the suspects' arrest on Sunday after police caught Celeste about to sell the stolen vehicle, Luga said.

The police grilled Celeste and Bosines, who were allegedly involved in many car theft incidents in Quezon City, Luga added.

But what was supposed to be a successful day for the police's campaign against crime turned sour after news of Maunay's death broke out.

"This is very sad. The guy has two small kids. I don't know what will happen to them. His wife does not have a job," said Lozada.

He said Maunay was driving his silver 1994 Toyota Corolla taxi (with Plate No. PXY-470) along the Elliptical Road when his four assailants flagged him down in front of the Quezon City hall.

Maunay then drove toward Commonwealth Avenue after the suspects told him to proceed to Fairview, Lozada said.

But as they passed the CHR building along Commonwealth, Lozada said the suspects brought out their knives and announced the holdup.

"Maunay even had a small wound in his neck because one of the suspects had pressed his knife too close to him," Lozada said.

As the suspects were divesting Maunay of his belongings, he suddenly bolted and ran for his life. But one of the suspects went after him, caught him, and then stabbed him twice in the back, Lozada said.

After the suspects escaped, other motorists noticed Maunay slumped on the sidewalk and brought him to the East Avenue Medical Center, Lozada added.

But Maunay died about 6:45 a.m. yesterday while doctors were trying to revive him, Lozada added.

Fired cop behind holdups nabbed

By Jerome Aning

A DISMISSED rookie policeman wanted for a string of robbery-holdups was arrested by Western Police District operatives in his residence in Balut, Tondo Sunday afternoon.

Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., city police chief, said ex-PO1 Francisco Bacunawa and at least two other cohorts preyed on unsuspecting people in front of their own houses.

A WPD team collared Bacunawa, 33, around 1 p.m. Sunday at his house on Block 5, Marcos Road, Magsaysay Village, Tondo. The police were armed with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Senecio Ortile of the city's regional trial court Branch 30.

The suspects reportedly utilized a red Toyota Corolla, usually with various phony or stolen license plates, in their activities.

Among the victims who filed charges against Bacunawa were Remegio Bernardo, chair of Barangay 146 in Balut, Romeo Bacani and Alfredo Capili of Gagalangin. Police said there were other robbery incidents involving Bacunawa but the cases often did not prosper in court because the victims usually lose interest in pursuing the charges.

Bernardo, 52, Bacunawa's latest victim, said he was walking near his house on Nepa corner Paulino Street in Tondo on March 8 when the gun-wielding suspect approached him.

The barangay official lost P72,000 worth of jewelry and P30,000 cash. He later identified Bacunawa from the "rogue gallery" of the WPD Station 1.

Police, however, fear that Bacunawa may again go free and return to his old ways as the charge filed against him was bailable. In his previous cases, Bacunawa reportedly used his alleged loot to bail himself out.

3 injured in 2 feuds

A 5-YEAR-OLD girl and her father were shot and injured, while a worker was repeatedly hacked in two separate but bloody weekend feuds in Malabon.

A stray bullet hit Jessa May Jeremias, 5, while her father Lorenzo Jeremias suffered sustained gunshot wounds in the abdomen after Carlito Manlupig, the girl's uncle, allegedly shot at them inside their house on Letre Road in Barangay Tonsuya at about 8 p.m. Sunday.

Father and daughter were rushed to the Tondo Medical Center and later transferred to the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan.

The shooting stemmed from a heated argument between Jeremias and Manlupig over the impending demolition of their shanty, case investigator PO3 Ferdinand Espiritu said in his report.

A drunken Manlupig was insisting that Lorenzo drop his claims on the shanty since it was sitting on a private property, police said.

Jeremias refused to give up and an irked Manlupig suddenly took a homemade .32 revolver and repeatedly shot and hit him in the abdomen, investigation showed. One of the bullets hit Jessa May on the jaw, police said.

Jeremias' wife Virginia, who was able to wrest the gun from Manlupig, immediately ran to the nearby barangay hall for assistance, police said.

Manlupig later surrendered to arresting officers.

In Barangay Potrero, Randy Ruales, 27, and Necasio and Erning Baste repeatedly hacked worker Glenson Mangubat, 28, inside his house on Atis Road about 7 p.m. on Sunday, police said.

Mangubats was sleeping when the suspects barged into his room and hacked him, according to PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin.

Mangubat suffered severe injuries in the head, armpit, and arm, police said.

Christian Esguerra

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Has Nat Santiago sold out?

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHEN he decided to throw his hat into the political arena, they thought he had sold 17 years of principled activism for a seat in the decaying bureaucracy.

No amount of denials could put the doubts to rest.

To prove his point, activist Nathanael Santiago last week gave the INQUIRER a tour of his humble headquarters in Caloocan.

Santiago is running for councilor in Caloocan City.

"Actually, my strongest opponent in the elections is money. I have a small amount but I know this would never suffice come the actual campaign," he explained with a husky voice.

The headquarters, roughly the size of two passenger jeepneys, is located amid decrepit shanties on A. Mabini Street, a minute's drive from the Caloocan City Hall.

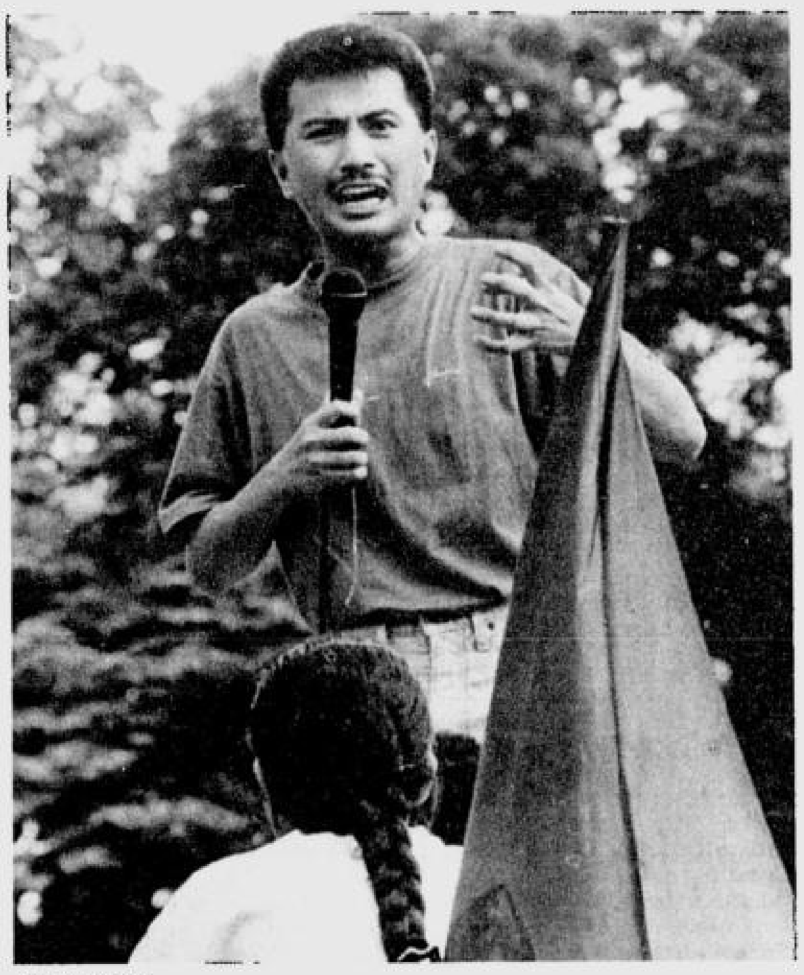
The place actually appeared like a large shoebox. Or it could seem like an abandoned vulcanizing shop, or a space intended for wakes in a squatter colony.

The entrance, wide open, swallows the dust and grime of the street heavily littered with garbage.

A large streamer of Bayan Muna, Santiago's political party, and a group of young activists strumming a guitar to the tune of a nationalist song, served as the headquarters' gate number.

In the middle of the room were several monobloc chairs and a long table made of hard plastic.

Behind the table was a folding bed, its covering linen ruffled. Manila papers that showed lists of voters in the city's District II were neatly posted on the wall, above the bed.



SANTIAGO

Santiago had no campaign posters in his own headquarters since the very few he had were reduced to mere patches over big, colorful posters of Kiko Pangilinan and Ping Lacson.

Without uttering a word, Santiago made the most significant statement before the interview could start. He said he's poor, he's running, but he never sold out.

"Contrary to what my critics have been spreading, I never sold my soul," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

Joining politics was among the hardest decisions he ever made. Having criticized every imaginable irregularity in the bureaucracy throughout his 17-year advocacy, he had to spend many sleepless nights to decide.

Santiago got the offer to run in Caloocan from re-electionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo on Jan. 19, the eve of the Edsa II victory.

Amid tens of thousands of anti-Estrada protesters, Malonzo told the 34-year-old Santiago: "Nat, *nagsama na tayo sa* Edsa, *magsama na rin tayo sa* Caloocan."

Flattered yet calculating, Santiago asked Malonzo to give him time to think. He accepted the offer only on Feb. 27, a day before the deadline of the filing of certificates of candidacy.

"The decision was a product of long debates and deliberations within the party. I would not have run without the blessings of Bayan Muna," he said.

Curiously, the main proposition of the debate was not whether Santiago would run, but whether he would be allowed to run for "only" councilor.

An activist for half of his life, Santiago began his advocacy as lay minister of the United Church of Christ in 1984. Before he became secretary general of the party list group Bayan Muna, he had served as chair of the Student Christian Movement, League of Filipino Students, and Bayan.

But Santiago made the perfect argument: "Local politics is personalistic. Residents have to know you personally. I couldn't do that within two to three months."

He added: "Better run for a lower office and win. *Madaling mangarap ng mataas na posisyon, mahirap manalo.*"

Santiago's decision to run gave birth to a more serious problem: Where to get the money to finance his campaign.

"Our electoral system is bankrupt. It's always based on money. An ordinary worker cannot expect to be voted. It's only the elite that has a winning chance," he said.

Under this "bankrupt" system, cause-oriented groups could only forge a coalition with legitimate political parties, without sacrificing their ideologies, if only to get a legitimate crack at an elected position.

For his part, Santiago welcomed a "cooperative relationship" with Malonzo's ticket similar to Jaime Cardinal Sin's "critical collaboration" with the Marcos regime.

Santiago bared he was aware that the traditional politics of money and false promises might also be lurking in his own ticket.

To avoid creating trouble in his own backyard, Santiago adopted the rule of flexible assimilation.

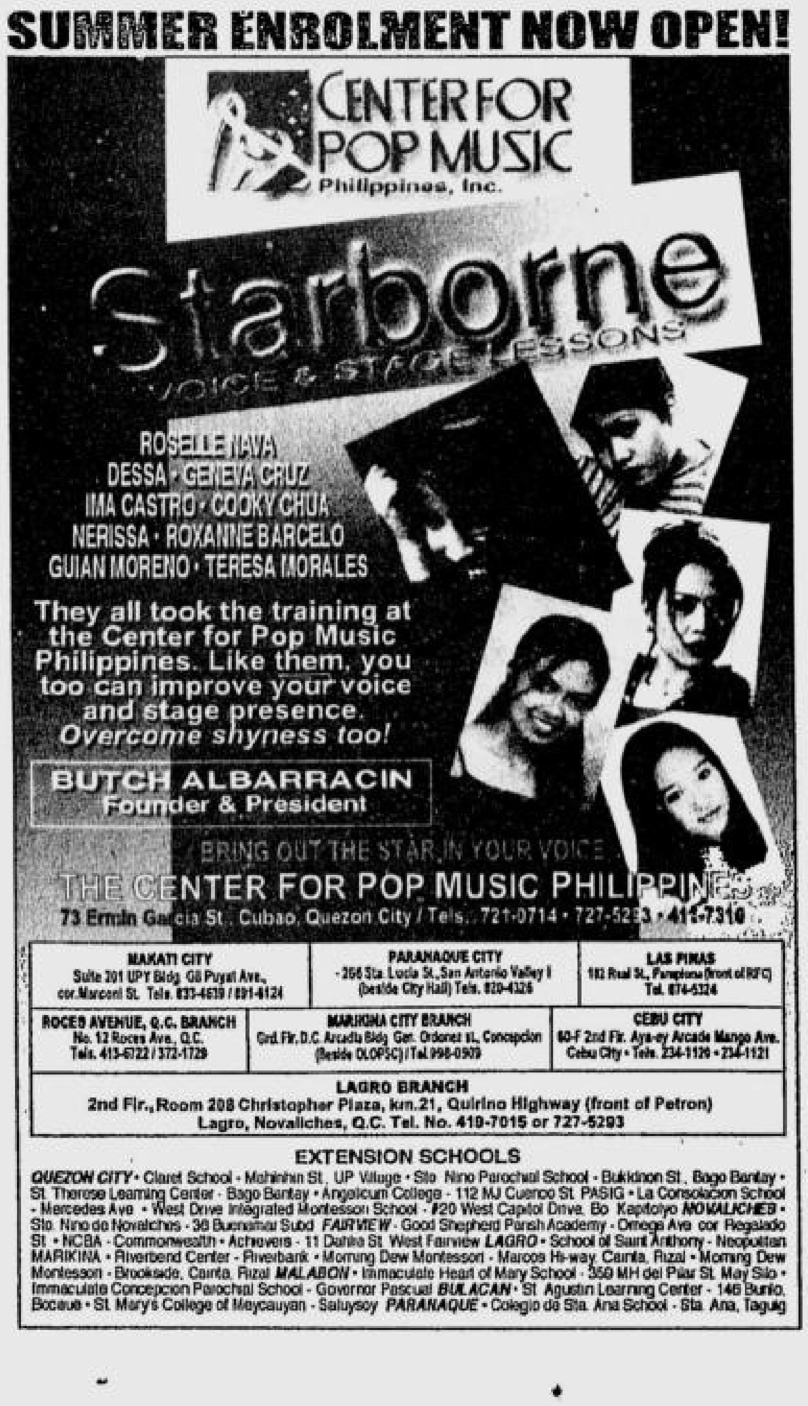
"Within the alliance, there's a struggle for unity. Personally, I don't just accept everything. *Kung hindi magiging sip-sip ako,*" he said.

"If I want to call the attention of those in my ticket, I just do it in private and try to have a healthy discussion. They know I won't give up my principles," he added.

Should he win in the May elections, Santiago plans to implement a not-so-ambitious multi-sectoral program called TEKS (Tirahan, Edukasyon, Kalusugan, at Serbisyo).

The centerpiece of the program would be the establishment of relocation sites for Caloocan squatters, upgrading of the city's public school system, intensification of the drug prevention and rehabilitation program, and establishment of job security for contractual employees.

Whoever claimed Santiago has sold out when he joined politics should drop by his office. It's a short ride from City Hall. You're sure to miss the oversized shoebox.



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2 dead as guards duel cowboy style

By Alcuin Papa

TWO men were left dead after envy drove two sets of security guards to draw their firearms and duel to the finish in two separate incidents in Parañaque and Makati the other day.

The first incident happened in Parañaque City the other day. Both protagonists, victim Felizardo Amelin, 38, of Barangay BF, Parañaque City and suspect Jaime Halip, 31 of 816-B Mayer St., Malibay, Pasay, were security guards of the El Tigre Security Agency.

The two guards were assigned at the PM Standard Manufacturing Company located in Barangay Severino, Km. 17, South Super Highway, Parañaque City.

Investigator PO3 Ramil Padios said that around 3:45 p.m., Halip approached Amelin and suddenly fired at the victim, emptying his .38 caliber revolver.

Amelin died on the spot with gunshot wounds in his head, different parts of his body and hands.

Padios said police have yet to establish a clear motive because none of the witnesses or the security guards' co-workers wanted to talk.

However, Padios said he had learned that the two had engaged in a drinking session the night before. He was also looking at the possibility that the suspect was envious of the victim's good standing with their bosses.

"It would seem that the two were each trying to curry the favor of their bosses and the suspect might have been angered when the victim was getting ahead," Padios told the Inquirer.

The suspect is still at large and being hunted by the Parañaque police. Murder charges have already been filed against him.

In Makati City, two security guards of the Makati City Medical Center exchanged gunfire the other day.

Investigators said security guard Elberto Millo, 31, shot dead his fellow security guard Joseph Gavina, 30, of Cupang, Antipolo at around 11:30 p.m. at the PSVSAI Compound located at the corner of Dela Rosa and Amorsolo streets.

Millo was reportedly envious of Gavina because the victim was logging in more hours and earning more money. Security guards, police learned, were being paid by the hour.

Firm seeks new ruling on Fort case

A CONSTRUCTION company hired by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to do the finishing touches on the Heritage Park project in Fort Bonifacio is seeking reconsideration from the Office of the Ombudsman on its case against the BCDA for demolishing its structures even before its contract had expired.

Complainant Edison Construction Company (EDC) had earlier filed charges against BCDA officials Rogelio Singson and Isaac Puno III, and Public Estates Authority (PEA) official Carlos Doble who had allegedly caused the demolition of barracks, bunkhouses, office and other structures EDC had erected while awaiting the completion of Stages 1 an d2, which had deadlines of October, 1997, and January, 1998, respectively.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 3, 2001
5th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Num 21:4-9
Gospel: Jn 8:21-30

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "*I am* going away, and though you look for me, you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." The Jews wondered, "Why does he say that we can't come where he is going? Will he kill himself?"

But Jesus said, "You are from below and *I am* from above; you are of this world and *I am* not of this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. And you shall die in your sins unless you believe that *I am He.*"

They asked him, "Who are you?" and Jesus said, "Just what I have told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the One who sent me is truthful and everything I learned from him, I proclaim to the world."

They didn't understand that Jesus was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that *I am He* and that I do nothing of myself, but I say just what the Father taught me. He who sent me is with me and has not left me alone; because I always do what pleases him." As Jesus spoke like this, many believed in him.

Commentary:

Heaven and earth meet in Jesus of Nazareth. But one who is not open to him cannot have access to this bridge. In fact, one cannot have access to God-Self. And if we miss the very goal of our lives, we miss everything. This is what hell is all about: to be in sin; to turn to oneself narcissistically rather than to the Ultimate Reality, on which ground we are and move and have our being; to miss what we are called to be when we could have done so. God in Jesus Christ will never reject us. For, as earlier stated by the evangelist, God so loved the world that God sent the Only Begotten One to give life to the world. It is we in our folly who bring ourselves to perdition. Don't be stupid, will you?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS (JUDICIAL ETHICS)—Behavior of judiciary personnel—The conduct and behavior of every one connected with an office charged with the dispensation of justice, from the presiding judge to the sheriff and to the lowliest clerk should be circumscribed with the heavy burden of responsibility. For every employee of the judiciary should be an example of integrity, uprightness and honesty. Even a court janitor is as much duty-bound to serve with highest degree of responsibility as all other public officers. Respondent's act undeniable constitutes a misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service. The court is looked up to by people with high respect and is regarded a sacred place where litigants are heard, rights and conflicts settled and justice solemnly dispensed. Misbehavior within and around the vicinity diminishes its sanctity and dignity. Their conduct must at all times be characterized by, among other things, propriety and decorum so as to earn and keep the public's respect and confidence in the judicial service. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc, Per Curiam,* Merilo-Bedural v. Edroso, A.M. No. 00-1395, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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7	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	QUILLS
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8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ERIN BROCKOVICH
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
7	DTS	THEY NEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BAIT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM SOUTHMALL 8066886 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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1	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	MALENA (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	CHOCOLAT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE GIFT In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MS. CONGENIALITY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	WEDDING PLANNER in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE GIFT in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARCH 30, 31 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage

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1	SAVE THE LAST DANCE THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
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3	THE GIFT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THEY NEST In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	CHOCOLAT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8	BABAENG PUTIK
9	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	UHAW SA INIT
2	TOTAL AIKIDO
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	UHAW SA INIT

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3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THEY NEST
5	TOTAL AIKIDO

Metropolis
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1	TOTAL AIKIDO
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	RESERVE
4	UHAW SA INIT
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	THEY NEST
7	ALWAYS A COPS
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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3	TURN ON
4	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
5	—
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
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2	IKAPITONG GLORIA
3	PERFECT STORM
4	THE REPLACEMENT

Center Plaza Cinema
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1	PAY IT FORWARD
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

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1	RESERVE
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE GIFT

Spring
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1	TOTAL AIKIDO
A	UHAW SA INIT

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	RESERVE
3	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	QUILLS
4	THE GIFT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	BABAENG PUTIK
7 (DTS)	BAIT
8 (SDDS)	TOTAL AIKIDO
9 (DOLBY)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	UHAW SA INIT
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	BABAENG PUITK
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
8	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	RESERVED
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	TOTAL AIKIDO
6	BABAENG PUTIK
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TOTAL AIKIDO
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	BABAENG PUTIK
5 (SDDS)	UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BABAENG PUTIK

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7808

1	BABAENG PUTIK

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BABAENG PUTIK
Lords	UHAW SA INIT
Jennet	WILD SIDE

Mandaluyong
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1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	BABAENG PUTIK

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THEY NEST
2	TOTAL AIKIDO
3	UHAW SA INIT
4	BABAENG PUTIK
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS)	THE BAIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	WEDDING PLANNER
2 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DOLBY)	THE BAIT
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
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4 (DTS)	TOTAL AIKIDO

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3 (DTS)	THE BAIT
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

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3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

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3	WAY OF THE GUN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT

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2	TOTAL AIKIDO

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3	BABAENG PUTIK
4	TOTAL AIKIDO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BABAENG PUTIK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOPS TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	UHAW SA INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	UHAW SA INIT
MIRAMAR	IKAPITONG GLORIA/KAMASUTRA-2
ODEON	UHAW SA INIT
ODEON-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
ROBEN	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP / HOT SPOT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
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CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

(From page A18)

Photography workshop

ARIEL Reyes will hold a summer photography workshop at the Mary Help of Christians Parish in Better Living, Parañaque from April 16 to May. The culminating activity is a photo exhibit.

Reyes was the cinematographer of the film, "Ang Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion." He holds a masters degree in cinematography from the All-Union State Film Institute of Cinematography in Moscow, Russia. Call 776-4249.

Working dogs

EVERY Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in April on the National Geographic Channel, "Dogs with Jobs" focuses on a number of interesting "canine professionals."

In "Endal, Memory Dog," Endal (a golden Labrador) is the light of **Allen Perton**'s life. "Clipper, War Dog," features a canine hero that has saved several men. And "Corky, Guiding Eye Dog," shows how Corky serves as the "eyes" of a blind poet.

On Cinemax this month

APRIL 6 at 5 a.m., "Cinemas of the World: The Agitation of the Realm" features interviews with film directors and artists. "Cinemas of the World" explores the film styles of India, Spain, Australia, Hong Kong and Denmark.

April 29 at 9 p.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes," starring **Hugh Grant** as an art-house auctioneer who gets deeper and deeper in trouble with the Mob after learning that his girlfriend is the daughter of a big crime lord.

Michael releases second single

FORMER Starbrighter Michael Laygo is on the rise again, regaining his enthusiasm in music.

"Naririto Ako," Michael's newest single from his latest album under Asiatec Music (Concorde Record's production outfit), reaches mostly to Filipino music enthusiasts. The song has been enjoying favorable airplay in Manila and as far as Visayas and Mindanao.

Michael continues to capture the airwaves through the release of his second single, "Hinding-Hindi libig sa Iba."

The album contains arrangement by Sunny Ilacad. It is exclusively distributed by Concorde Records and is now on sale in all leading record bars nationwide.

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THE GIFT - P 13 12:00, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Unfair advantage

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS the electoral campaign heats up, some candidates are starting to complain about the "unfair advantage" of political contenders from show biz and the media. Because they're celebrities, they get extra publicity in newspapers' entertainment sections and on celebrity-oriented radio and TV programs.

In addition some movie stars running for public office have timed the release of their latest starrers to coincide before the electoral campaign period. The hope is that, if their films become big hits, their popularity will boost their stars' chances at the polls.

For their part, show biz celebrities say that it isn't their fault that they're popular and thus are sought out by the media, instead of the other way around. Besides, they say, if other candidates feel that they're being upstaged, they can always come up with radio, TV and newspaper ads to even up the score.

However non-show biz candidates think that's adding insult to injury, because ads cost a lot of money. Is there a less, expensive way to counter show biz politicos' built-in advantage? Cash-strapped non-celebrities sure would like to know!

Meanwhile, the celebrity candidates are all over the media, getting a lot of extra exposure by way of interviews, publicity for their latest show biz projects, and inclusion in fora on any number of topics.

In addition, some TV channels have been perceived to be partial to show biz politicos, specially if they're "alumni" of the channels in question.

If a channel runs a feature on candidates on the stump in the provinces, you can bet that its "graduates" are given preferential coverage on that feature.

This is all clearly unfair, of course, but if electoral bodies or watchdog groups don't rap some knuckles, non-show biz candidates will just have to grin and bear it.

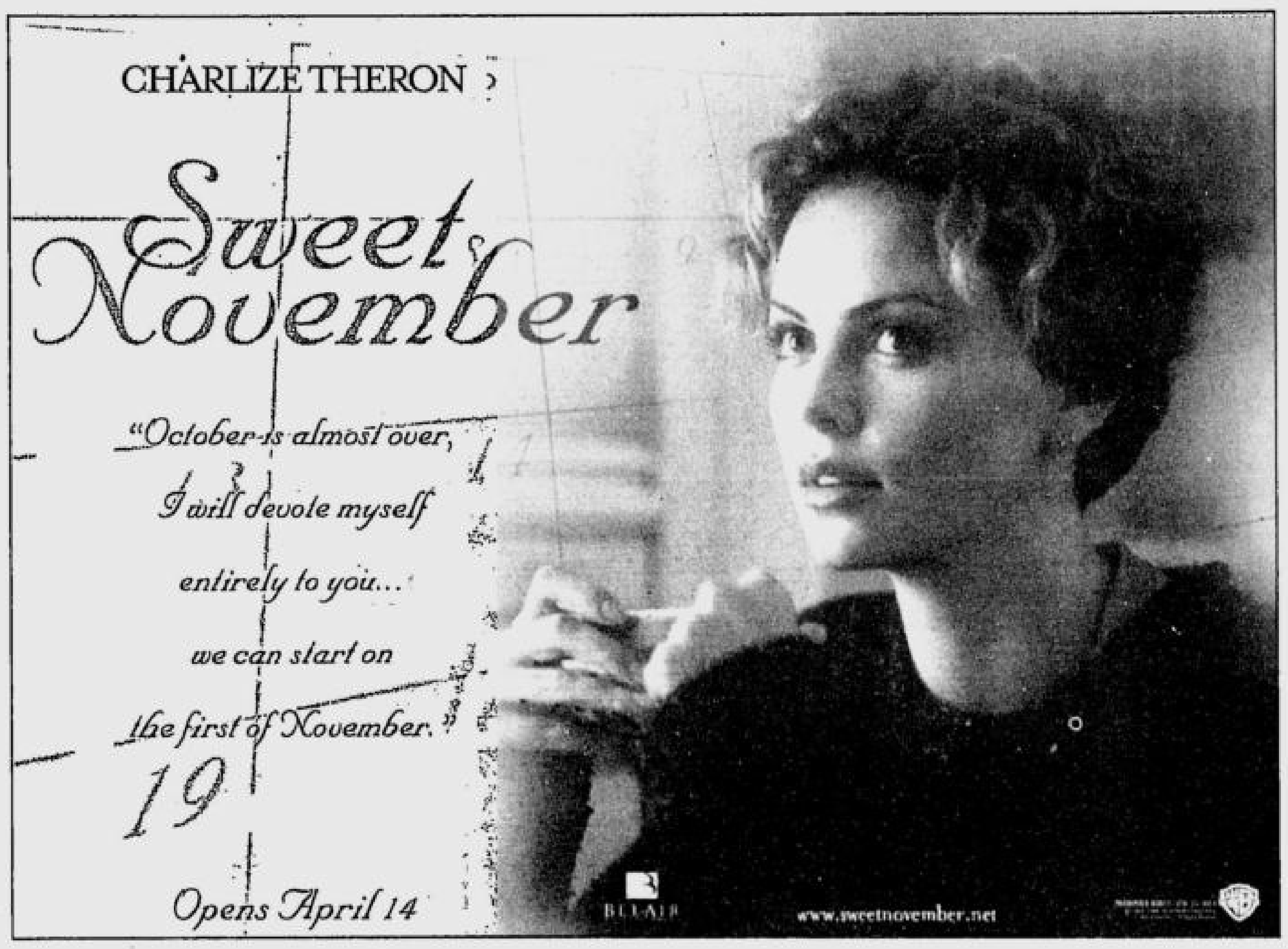
Or, as some stars josh, if they can't lick them, they can always try to join them by entering show biz themselves—or marrying superstars who can help them realize their political ambitions—all the way to the top!

Sinakulo staged on April 8

SINING Intramuros, a theater group composed by people living inside the historic Walled City, presents its version of the cenakulo (passion play) on Palm Sunday, April 8, at 4 p.m. at Plaza Moriones in Fort Santiago. Fort Santiago entrance fees are P40 for adults and P15 for children and students. Call 527-3138.

The cenakulo presentation is directed by **Maria Luzinia B. Lat**, with **Jon Gaela** assisting.

UNFAIR/A18



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B1
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Gov't to stop SMC's Coke buyback

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration will ask the courts to restrain businessman Eduardo Cojuangco from pushing through with the $1.1-billion buyback by San Miguel Corp. of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. from Australia's Coca-Cola Amatil.

The new administration also wants to stop the proposed acquisition by SMC of Purefoods Corp. for P7 billion and the beer-based giant's assumption of some P700 million in loans of its joint venture partner Campofrio Alimentacion SA.

Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz said these three deals worth about P70 billion were approved by representatives of the former administration in the SMC board and should now be deferred by the management team led by its chair, Eduardo Cojuangco.

"These are huge transactions and the board should allow the new directors of San Miguel to sit and vote on the issue because the biggest stockholder of the company happens to be the government," Cruz said.

He said a restraining order on these transactions would be included in the petition the Office of the Solicitor General was set to file yesterday on behalf of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Cruz said that Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia, who now sits in the SMC board, had voted against the approval of the transactions and had asked the directors to defer their approval and wait for the new representatives to be appointed by the PCGG.

SMC signed a deal last month with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Co. to re-acquire Coca-Cola Philippines from Coke Amatil for 2.2 billion Australian dollars or about $1.1 billion.

The food and beverage giant also agreed to acquire Purefoods Corp. from the Ayalas for P7 billion. Cruz explained that San Miguel had agreed to assume P700 million in loans of Campofrio, its joint venture in San Miguel Campocarne Corp.

The PCGG, which sequestered 27 percent of SMC, is entitled to appoint five directors while GSIS and pension fund Social Security System are entitled to one seat each.

Cruz said Garcia's motion fell on deaf ears, which is why the Office of the Solicitor General included his concerns in a petition to seek the ouster of five Estrada nominees in SMC and to lift the Jan. 20 deadline imposed by the company's by-laws on the nomination of directors.

"Those sitting in SMC now are protecting the interests of Cojuangco," Cruz claimed.

The new government, he said, was not rightly represented in SMC since the appointees of Estrada had refused to resign.

Former President Joseph Estrada had appointed his brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, movie producer Espiridion Laxa, Alan Lee, Ben Paulino and Dr. Hermogenes Tantoco to the SMC board to represent the government.

Cruz said the PCGG had written the five repeatedly, asking them to resign but the Erap appointees said their term ends on May 3 as provided for in the by-laws of SMC.

As a result, the government could not appoint its nominees—Renato Valencia, former president of the Social Security System; banker Octavio V. Espiritu; former Presidential Security Group chief Gen. Leo Alvez; former Court of Appeals Justice Hector Hofillena, and Bacolod businessman Francis Fuentebella.

Aside from the ouster of the Estrada nominees, government lawyers would also seek an extension of the Jan. 20 deadline for submission of board nominees as provided by its by-laws.

"President Arroyo only took her oath on Jan. 20 and I think it is legally unreasonable to impose the deadline," Cruz said.

INDICATORS

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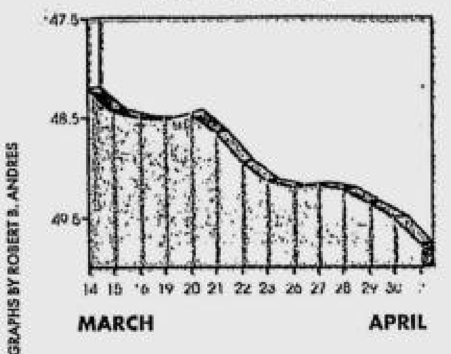

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The US dollar was trading at 126.40 as of 5 p.m., April 2, 2001

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per ounce Hong Kong, April 2, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

STOCKS eased yesterday, reversing Friday's light gains as investors trimmed their portfolios going into the Holy Week holiday, starting next week, traders said.

They added with a dearth of positive factors and with the holiday coming up investors were loath to push prices up again.

"We are a little bearish going into Holy Week, people do not want to hold on to large portfolios and are closing up their positions," Eagle Securities president Joey Roxas said.

Some light gains at the opening, which soon dissipated, were driven by some bargain hunting, chiefly in Equitable PCI Bank, he said.

The country's third largest bank was to open yesterday the proposals from the parties interested in acquiring a strategic stake.

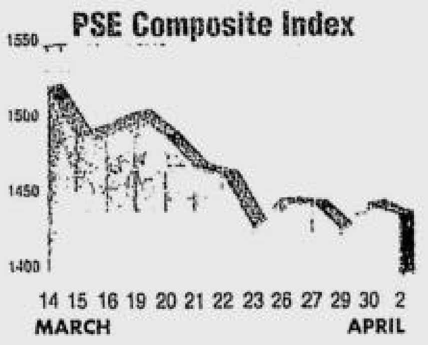
The main composite index closed down 7.35 points, or 0.51 percent at 1,439.05. Turnover fell to P326.3 million from P445 million.

Equitable PCI shares closed up 50 centavos at P53.50.

Equitable PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap said after Friday's small uptick "it was back to normal today."

Reuters

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Lucio Tan holds key to fate of NSC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration yesterday admitted that taipan Lucio Tan holds the key to the reopening of National Steel Corp. whose Iligan plant has been shuttered for the last 18 months.

This was revealed yesterday by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who said that Tan's banks—Philippine National Bank and Allied Banking Corp.—control 50 percent of NSC's P14 billion in obligations.

Roxas said: "Any solution must have the support of the banks, in particular PNB and Allied as they represent 50 percent of secured credit."

Tan and his business allies, the Cathay Pacific Steel Co. group, have likewise expressed keen interest in taking control of NSC which, despite its loss-making operations, could still

LUCIO TAN/ B3

NEW INVESTOR

Equitable selling only 35%

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank yesterday said it would only evaluate bids from investors offering to acquire as much as 35 percent of the bank and would automatically reject any proposal for a merger.

Wilfrido Vergara, president of Equitable PCI, said the bids were scheduled to be submitted and opened yesterday but the announcement would be done later, or after the committee he leads has studied the offers.

"I can't assure that there will be a decision readily because the length of our evaluation will depend on the structure of the bids," Vergara said.

After that, the bids would be submitted to the board, which will make the final decision, Vergara said in an interview.

The four groups believed to have submitted bids for Equitable PCI were Malaysian investors led by bank director Ricardo Leong; JG Summit Corp.; Fubon Group of Taiwan, and US-based venture firm Newbridge Capital Inc.

However, INQUIRER sources said the Gokongwei family was already lukewarm on the acquisition and was now setting its sights on Urban Bank Corp. "The bank has refused to give out important information and this is turning off the Gokongweis," said a source close to the Chinese-Filipino family.

Vergara denied this allegation and said the bank had opened its books and given the parties ample time for due diligence.

"This is on the premise that the bids would be acceptable to the bank because if there would be an offer to acquire 51 percent, the bank can't make these shares available. We are only selling up to 35 percent of the bank," the bank president said.

With the sale of as much as 35-percent stake, the bank expects to raise between P10 billion and P15 billion in fresh capital.

Vergara said any party proposing a merger would have to talk to the individual shareholders.

He explained that the bank could only sell up to 35 percent of the stake made up of primary shares.

EQUITABLE/ B2

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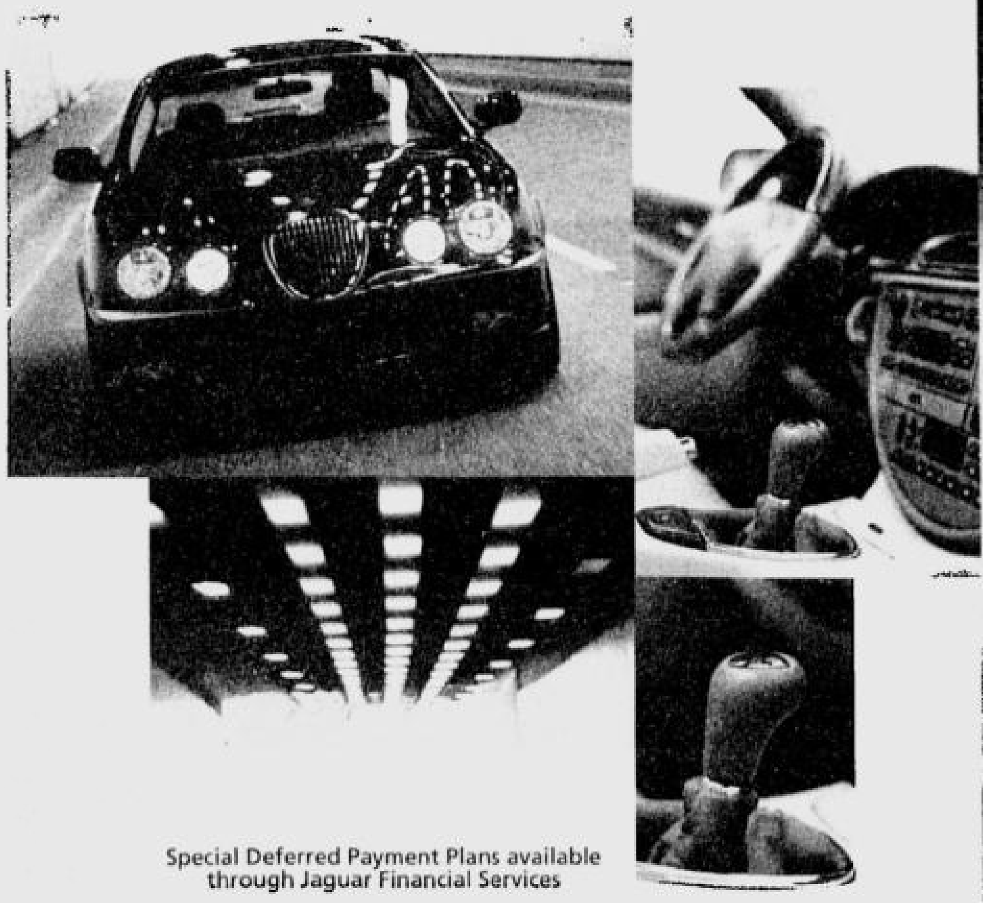

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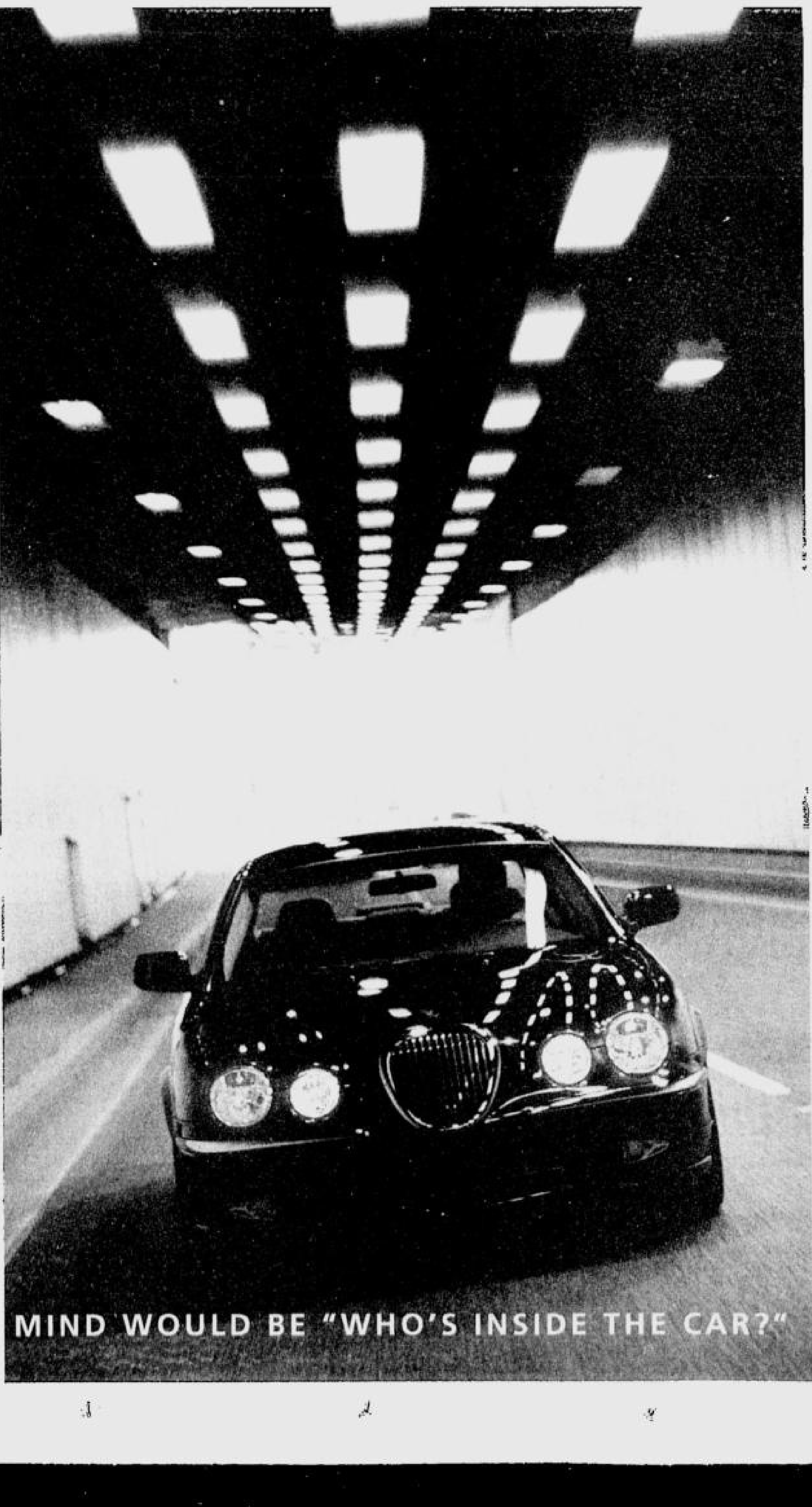

AND THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE ELSE'S MIND WOULD BE "WHO'S INSIDE THE CAR?"

Sell pawn

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FORTY billion pesos is a lot of money. Many of us can never finish counting up to one billion, even if we are stupid enough to try. Me, I often get lost after 659, 544, 339! That's why P40 billion sounds exciting to this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

The way to that easy P40 billion is Pagcor. This is the state monopoly in the most lucrative business known in civil society as "gambling." Among the friends of First Gentleman Miguel "Just Call Me Mike" Arroyo, it is known diplomatically as "gaming."

A group of money men, anyway, according to reports, wants to do an IPO for 40 percent of Pagcor. Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo thinks it's a swell idea. It can help him raise P40 billion to cover this cute administration's allegedly austere budget.

For 2001, as you know, this cute administration aims for a budget deficit of P145 billion, tops. Hitting such a target is supposedly a super-duper major feat. Many in the media are calling it "reduction." Media people are never good in mathematics.

Correct me if I'm always right, but the deficit last year amounted to P136 billion. Somebody please explain to me how in the world this year's P145-billion deficit can be lower than last year's P136 billion! Go back to school, kids.

* * *

ASIDE from raising money for this cute administration, Romulo thinks the Pagcor IPO can pump up our drowsy stock market. Hmm. I think I heard this very same line before. No, sir, it was not one of the 40 billions of text messages going around on the cell phone.

As soon as this cute administration got to Malacañang, some money men immediately thought up ways to awaken the stock market. They decided on an IPO—an exciting IPO. In this country, what excites people more than gambling, este, gaming.

It so happened Romulo had plans for Pagcor, too. He wanted to securitize Pagcor's earnings. In an IPO, you sell the company outright. In a securitization, you just pawn part of it. Sell or pawn? That was the question to Romulo. Now he wants an IPO.

The only problem in both plans, anyway, was none other than Just Call Me Mike. Those in big business like IPO handling knew he already took control of Pagcor. Made head of Pagcor was his associate in the Rotary Club, a certain Ephraim Genuino.

Even before this cute administration could form a Cabinet, it already had the gambling or gaming monopoly well-covered. That's how important the business was to some people. Would they allow a multibillion-peso deal on Pagcor, uhm, just like that?

* * *

IF this cute administration wants to lessen the government's hold over Pagcor, by selling up to 40 percent of its shares, it wants the exact opposite for the country's biggest private business, the P90-billion San Miguel Corp. What it really wants in life, nobody can say.

Over the weekend, anyway, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo boasted he could prove that San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco was a bad, bad man. His shares in San Miguel were, ahh, according to Marcelo, what's known in the PCGG as "ill-gotten."

I also heard this very same line before. Let me see . . . aha, it was used only about 15 years ago. It was the very same line used by the PCGG, when its "agents" took over an unknown large number of businesses and assets—all in the name of the republic.

For the past 15 years, the PCGG could not prove precisely the very same line as Marcelo's. Among the big names in lawyering before him was former Senate President Jovito Salonga. I don't know but he probably thinks he's better than Uncle Jovy.

Let's say Marcelo beats Uncle Jovy anytime of day. So he can prove that Danding Cojuangco was the bad guy. Last time I checked, he has to do it in court. So why does this cute administration have to take over the business right away? Beats me, too.

* * *

BECAUSE, according to Marcelo, if Danding stays in San Miguel, as he did in the past two years, there is danger of "imminent dissipation" of the firm's assets. Whaaat? Marcelo should probably have said instead it was the other way around.

Courtesy of hundreds of PCGG agents and other political hangers-on, the government also took over businesses whose assets were also in danger of "imminent dissipation." Exactly the same line! So who got rich? Not the republic, for sure.

Over in San Miguel, for instance, only after 12 years of government control over it, the company was in the hole for more than P50 billion in 1998, the year Danding retook the business. It needed that much money, and it could not do a Pagcor IPO.

Everybody in the stock market knows that San Miguel made a complete turnaround in the past two years under Danding. He was able to plug that P50-billion hole, for one. That's why top executives of the company did not resign en masse.

Not too long ago, apparently to create a vacuum in the company, somebody tried to entice its executives to resign. None did. It could destroy San Miguel for good. I wonder who Marcelo referred to as dangerous to the firm—Danding or the government!

* * *

NOW Marcelo's recycled line is understandable. This cute administration could not take control of the San Miguel board, which would lead to Danding's ouster. The Danding camp claimed that Marcelo et al failed to meet the deadline for nomination to the board.

But precisely, according to Marcelo, the administration already changed right after the deadline! So there you have it—the real true reason this cute administration is taking over San Miguel. They think the company is part of the spoils of political war.

Be gone, Danding, in short, for you backed the wrong horse! Unfortunately, the stock market does not think similarly. Even under the bad, bad guy Danding, the European investment bank ING Baring calls San Miguel a "very attractive investment."

And so what will happen in the stock market? Let's say, by sheer power of the government, Marcelo et al could really win through their old recycled line about that imminent freaking dissipation. Do you think the stock market would jump with glee?

So there, this cute administration does not mind that we become owners of a gambling business, if only to tickle the market. At the same time, it does not care about any market sentiment on a top market favorite like San Miguel. *Ano ba talaga*?

GSIS earmarks ₱5B for IPOs

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

STATE-CONTROLLED pension fund Government Service Insurance System has earmarked up to P5 billion in fresh funds for investments in initial public offerings (IPOs) to help develop the local stock market.

But GSIS president Winston Garcia yesterday told the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines that these funds would be made available only if radical changes were made in the IPO system in the country.

Garcia said he did not want to be part of a system where IPOs benefited only the issuers and the underwriters while a lot of investors lost their money from overvalued stocks particularly during the IPO craze in the 1990s.

He cited three conditions that must be fulfilled before GSIS would invest in companies holding IPOs:

- There must be equitable distribution of newly listed shares without resort to any pre-selling schemes.
- The shares issued should be primary and not secondary shares which often gave stockholders a convenient exit mechanism.
- IPOs must be reasonably priced.

"We must work to level the playing field. There's just too much speculation in the market and GSIS doesn't want to contribute to a system where there is only a favored few," Garcia said.

Unlike the Social Security System, which is required to limit its investments in securities to only 30 percent of its portfolio, GSIS is not bound by its charter to restrict its investments in the stock market.

But Garcia said GSIS was trying to rationalize its investments and correct the existing loopholes. He said GSIS would take an active role in the development of the stock market.

Garcia stressed that the capital market was not only a vehicle to generate profits but more importantly, a system that would provide more access to funds to small companies.

Banks' bad loans hit 16%

THE BAD loans ratio of commercial banks further increased to 16 percent in January from 15.1 percent in the previous month. This developed as these banks' loan portfolio contracted by 2.9 percent in the same month.

On a per sector basis, the regular commercial banks' non-performing loans or NPLs deteriorated to 17.63 percent of total loans in January from the previous month's 16.51 percent.

Universal banks posted last January a bad loans ratio of 18.14 percent of total loans compared to 17.58 in December.

Foreign banks operating in the country registered a slight improvement in their NPL ratio to 3.65 percent from 3.81 percent of total loans.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal and interests remain unpaid for 30 days or more after due date.

Bank analysts said local companies were still feeling the impact of last year's political crisis on their financial position.

ICTSI to bag new deal

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. is expected to take over soon the container terminal operations at the northeastern Brazil port of Suape, a state-firm that was recently privatized.

Well-placed sources said that ICTSI had submitted on March 12 the highest bid for the concession involving the terminal operations at the Suape Complexo Industrial Portuario, a Pernambuco State company under the State Secretariat of Economic Development, Tourism and Sports.

This boosted the chance of ICTSI to bag the 30-year concession. However, the concession will not be awarded until after the Suape State government has completed the review of the legal documents and the master plan submitted by ICTSI.

Other participants in the March 12 bidding were P&O Australia Ports, Hamburger Hafen-UNND Lagerhaus-Aktiengesellschaft and the Spanish TCB and Galigrain (Terminales Maritimos Layetanas).

Sources did not disclose the details of ICTSI's offer but based on the bidding guidelines, the minimum amount was set at around $50 million for a period of 30 years, and another $40 million in fresh investment for a new terminal.

Suape is located at the eastern tip of the Brazilian coast, near the city of Recife. Its 51-foot-deep waters allow large ships to berth on the South American east coast, a vital junction between the US to Europe routes.

The privatization of the Suape Port is the Brazilian government's latest attempt to trim down the cost of operating the port and encourage competition. The state has so far invested $200 million into this port.

Under the concession, Suape Port remains the owner of the port. The winning bidding will take over only the operations and management of the port for a specified period. Its privatization will provide income to the government during the term of the concession and will allow private capital investment in cranes and berths.

Gov't bids out Al-Amanah Bank today

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PRIVATIZATION Management Office will bid out today the government's 85-percent interest in Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank, the first state asset to be sold under the Macapagal administration.

This will be the third time in eight months that the Al-Amanah Bank shares would be offered for bidding but PMO officials were confident that the government would finally sell the bank this time and raise at least P1 billion.

Under existing privatization rules, the government can negotiate the terms of the sale when an asset has been put on the auction block twice. However, the assets cannot be sold at lower than its par value which in Al-Amanah's case is P100.

The government's 9.94 million shares were auctioned off on July 27 and Sept. 11 last year, both of which were declared failure because the Asset Privatization Trust (PMO's predecessor) did not get any offer. The shares were offered at an indicated price of P120 per share.

PMO officials are more confident in today's bidding as one party has tapped SGV and the Accra law office to conduct a due diligence audit on the bank.

Al-Amanah has nine branches, all in Mindanao, but its network is not fully operational because of its limited capital.

As of the second quarter last year, Al-Amanah has total assets of P304.217 million and liabilities of P461.976 million. It has a non-performing loan ratio of 15.4 percent.

Al-Amanah is the only bank authorized to perform banking, financing and investment operations and to establish and participate in agricultural, commercial and industrial ventures based on the Islamic banking system.

Unlike regular banks which charge interests on loans and pay the same on deposits, Islamic banks operate under a joint-venture type of arrangement wherein the bank, borrowers and depositors are partners sharing both the risks and profits on investments made.

Equitable selling only 35%

(From page B1)

He noted a substantial portion of this would be unissued shares.

Vergara said that in the event the bank rejected all offers, the bank's financial health should not be affected because deposits were reportedly coming back to its vaults.

The bank, the sources said, was targeting to recover the withdrawals ranging anywhere from P40 billion to P60 billion within six months since the oath-taking of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The first week after Jan. 20, the bank said deposits were already starting to return to its vaults.

The merger of Equitable with PCI Bank in May 1999 created the third biggest bank in the country with assets of more than P300 billion and deposits of P177 billion before it suffered from heavy withdrawals starting last November.

The Go family believed the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada has lifted the stigma from the bank and for a while, the family was resisting calls to sell the most valued asset founded by its ancestor Go Kim Pah in 1950.

The Go family owns about 30 percent of Equitable PCI.

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom announced the expected nomination of Xavier Loinaz into the company's board to replace Mark Anthony Javier.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 4 p.m. at the 2/F Auditorium of Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 14 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. The bank is also requesting stockholders not to send proxies at the meeting.

* * *

UNITED Paragon Mining Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May to July 20 with record date on May 18.

* * *

PETRON Corp. disclosed that employees at the Petron Bataan Refinery are expected to go on strike on April 6.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the decline in its share price. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, April 2, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69	172,500
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	16,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	224	224	210	214	84,670
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	18,200
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	29.5	29.5	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26.5	26	26.5	9,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1215	1250	1215	1250	4,040
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	925	895	920	17,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	43	43.5	43	43	11,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	420,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	14,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	270,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	715	705	710	110,170
Ivantage Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	570,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.045	0.043	0.044	90,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	42	41	42	1,400
Manila Electric Co. B	51.5	53	51.5	53	402,300
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	513,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.99	0.91	0.99	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	99,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,299,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	180,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	51,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	2,000
RFM Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	16,700
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	48	49.5	509,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	3,022,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	70,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.26	2.26	5,572,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	330,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	770,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	21	21.5	21	21.5	15,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	110,000
Ionics Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,400
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	163,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.75	0.71	0.75	1,680,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,950,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	430,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	650,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	670,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
Music Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	4,100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	990,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	40,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	22,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.5	1,070,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	43	43	43	43	1,004,300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.05	4.1	4	4	217,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	700	690	700	16,220
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.4	4,162,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	710,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.88	1.9	3,098,000
City & Land Developers	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,000
Primetown Property Group	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	110,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	1,528,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.1	440,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	60,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	520,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	340,860	54,157,280.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	126,558,190	233,165,185.00
PRO	11,479,000	38,537,100.00
Mining	10,000,000	45,500.00
OIL	14,580,000	213,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	162,958,050	326,118,665.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	599.00	DOWN 2.09
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,954.17	DOWN 7.12
PRO	530.65	DOWN 3.39
Mining	1,132.65	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.61	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	726.32	UP 9.62
Composite	1,439.05	DOWN 7.35

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 40; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 1,373

CURRENCIES

02-Apr-01

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.136751	1.000000	49.3710
Japan	Yen	0.009016	0.007931	0.3916
United Kingdom	Pound	1.610776	1.417000	69.9587
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145757	0.128222	6.3304
Switzerland	Franc	0.653306	0.574713	28.3742
Canada	Dollar	0.721197	0.634437	31.3228
Singapore	Dollar	0.629779	0.554017	27.3524
Australia	Dollar	0.554270	0.487591	24.0729
Bahrain	Dinar	3.015415	2.652661	130.9645
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303109	0.266645	13.1645
Brunei	Dollar	0.629604	0.553863	27.3448
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025261	0.022222	1.0971
UAE	Dirham	0.309496	0.272264	13.4419
Korea	Won	0.000855	0.000752	0.0371
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.879700	43.4317
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.449783	22.2062
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134109	6.6211
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.399190	19.7084
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063930	3.1563
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021807	1.0766
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000454	0.0224
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147955	7.3047
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004388	0.2166
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005287	0.2610
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021807	1.0766
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.116989	55.1469

FINAL STAGES

Home, SkyCable to form CATV monopoly

By Anthony O. Alcantara

SKY Vision Corp. and Home Cable Inc. said yesterday they were in the final stages of negotiations to form the country's biggest cable television company.

In an interview, Mediaquest Holdings Inc. president Antonio Samson said Sky Vision and Home Cable—the country's No. 1 and No. 2 cable companies—were working on signing a deal this week.

Barring any last-minute hitches, he said, the two companies should make an announcement before the country goes on a holiday to observe Lent.

Mediaquest, a subsidiary of No. 1 telecommunications firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., owns Home Cable. Sky Vision operates SkyCable, a trademark under the Lopez group of companies.

Samson refused to give any details.

"We will make an announcement at the proper time," he said. "We still have some details to discuss."

Persons familiar with the situation said the memorandum of agreement that Home Cable and Sky Vision were set to sign this week would not give a clear picture of how their merger would look like, and would only serve as a guide for future discussions on costs, and resolution of redundancies involving programs and personnel.

One source said Home Cable and Sky Vision had already completed their due diligence and had hurdled issues involving valuation.

PLDT began exploring tie-ups with the Lopez group last year to pursue a strategy to integrate its telecommunications business with the Internet and mass media.

In line with this strategy, PLDT has opened talks with GMA Network Inc. Sources said PLDT was set to begin its due diligence audit of GMA, which it was acquiring for P8.5 billion. The audit would take 45 to 60 days.

ePLDT, the principal corporate vehicle for PLDT's Internet and multimedia businesses, and Mediaquest are said to be scouting for foreign investors who could help finance the acquisition.

These strategic investors will maintain an indirect economic interest in GMA through the issuance of Philippine Depository Receipts, the same mechanism used by the Lopez group's ABS-CBN to invite non-Filipino investors.

Aside from buying into GMA and SkyCable, PLDT has also revived negotiations to acquire a direct-to-home video company.

The company is eyeing five companies: Philippine Multimedia Systems Inc., Thomas Telesis, Pacific Cable and DTU Systems Inc., Altimax, and GV Broadcasting.

PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan earlier confirmed PLDT was holding negotiations with certain direct-to-home video companies but said it was also exploring other options.

"We were hoping to launch it (DTH business) before the elections. However, we haven't decided if we would acquire or apply for a license ourselves. It may also be a joint venture with a company with an existing license," Pangilinan said.

AFTER 15 YEARS

GM driven from top spot of Fortune 500

NEW YORK—Surging energy prices in the United States gave oil, gas and power companies new fuel in their ascension of the annual Fortune 500.

Oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. surpassed automaker General Motors Corp., rising to No. 1 from No. 3 with the company's highest-ever $210 billion in revenue for 2000. GM, which had revenue of $184.6 billion, fell to No. 3.

Other energy companies fared well in 2000, with Enron Corp. at No. 7, rising from No. 18. Duke Energy Corp. shot up to No. 17 from 69 and Reliant Energy Inc. made it up to No. 55 from 114.

The list of the largest publicly held companies, ranked by fiscal year 2000 revenues, has been compiled annually since 1955 by the editors of Fortune. GM, which had held the top spot on the list for 15 years, now trails No. 2 Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in addition to Exxon Mobil.

Energy companies benefited from a surge in revenue brought about by falling supplies, utility deregulation, soaring natural gas prices and Opec's maneuvering to keep oil prices high. In the past year, crude oil has sold for as much as $30 a barrel, while in some parts of the United States last summer, gasoline cost more than $2 a gallon.

Other energy firms advancing included Texaco Inc., which went from No. 28 to No. 16; Chevron Corp., which was ranked No. 20, up from No. 35; and Dynegy Inc., which rose to No. 54 from No. 112.

San Francisco-based Chevron agreed to buy Texaco last October for $35.1 billion in stock, plus assumed debt of $7.5 billion. The deal is expected to close this summer pending review by the US Federal Trade Commission.

The Internet slowdown and uncertainty about the economy hurt a number of companies, particularly telecom firms that slid in the rankings. AT-and-T Corp. fell from No. 8 to No. 9.

But a merger helped Verizon Communications Inc., formed when Bell Atlantic and GTE combined in May, leapfrog from No. 33 past rivals WorldCom Inc., No. 32, and SBC Communications, No. 14, to the No. 10 spot.

America Online Inc., which became the first purely Internet company to break into the list last year at No. 337, rose to No. 271. Since then, it has become AOL Time Warner Inc. by dint of its acquisition of Time Warner. The combined company's revenue of $36.2 billion would have made it No. 39 on the new list, though was not counted there because the deal didn't close until early this year.

Computer companies were led by International Business Machines Corp., which stayed in the top 10, but fell from sixth last year to No. 8. *AP*

SBMA expects to gain ₱42.5B in investments

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is expecting to generate P42.5 billion in investments, $2.1 billion in exports and 12,500 new jobs between this year and 2005, the Presidential Commission for the Central Luzon Growth Corridor said.

The fresh investments, 55 percent of which would be poured in by foreign investors, would come largely from property development, the commission said, quoting the optimistic estimates of SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo in a report released through a wire service.

The SBMA, according to the commission, has expressed high hopes in attaining these targets because it has shifted its development and management strategies to the private sector.

At least P3.5 billion in annual projected investments would go to real estate development projects, particularly for hotel-resorts, a convention center and eco-tourism development projects.

An estimated P3 billion a year would be channeled to information technology projects and tourism and utility concerns. About P2 billion would go to manufacturing concerns, the commission said.

These new investments would increase the number of Subic locators from 339 last year to 514.

The creation of 12,500 new jobs would boost the number of employees at the freeport to more than 40,000 or twice the number of jobs generated at the former Subic Naval Base, this zone's original status, during the height of the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

"The development of two port projects, expansion of an existing port and the construction of the 90-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road are expected to enhance Subic Bay's appeal as a viable investment site," the commission said.

"As incorporated in the freeport's strategic plan, SBMA will undertake new ways of marketing and promotion, physical development, financial, legal and regulatory, organizational development and workforce improvement.

"The core investment marketing theme will center on the former US naval base's unique status as the only real freeport in the country and one of the most successful examples of military base conversions in the world." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Yokohama reports ₱120-M loss from strike

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. said it lost some P120 million in export sales and was unable to meet the demands of its foreign buyers during a labor dispute that gripped the company in January and February.

The company, one of two surviving tire manufacturers in the Philippines, also shelved an expansion plan scheduled early this year, Alberto Sumera Jr., Yokohama Philippines manufacturing manager, said.

Reeling from the huge losses and lost opportunities, Sumera said the company, which started here in 1996, decided to increase its daily production of 5,200 tires by only 600.

Two other tire manufacturers in the Philippines had closed shop due to labor problems, he said.

Yokohama production began normalizing on March 8, when the government-run Clark Development Corp. removed the barricades put up by some 60 workers along the road leading to the plant, he said.

The company had reached its regular production output since Monday last week and expressed optimism that manufacturing activities would face no more hitch, Sumera said.

Yokohama Philippines and CDC have secured the road leading to the plant, ringing the plant's façade with wood rails and barbed wire fences.

Union members continued to pitch tents some 15 meters from the company premises.

Sumera said the labor row, this zone's first major conflict in the last eight years, has also affected the image of the company and has become a test case for CDC.

But the conflict, according to him, did not stem from the company's alleged threat to suspend and dismiss 128 workers who joined protest actions against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"That's totally untrue. In fact, we have condoned their walkouts from Jan. 17 to 21," Sumera said.

The union, voting 182-0, staged the strike on Jan. 22, accusing the company of union busting.

Company officials, on the other hand, accused the union of rigging the result of the strike vote, backing up this claim with affidavits from workers

"The YTPI does not apply a no-union policy. It affirms and assures all that it respects the workers' right to self-organization and confirms that no one should be exempted from the laws that preserve this right," Sumera said.

However, he said the company has "a duty to protect its employees from fly-by-night unions," hinting that the YEU was of this type. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bank clears NSC rehab fund

By Elena R. Torrijos

ALLENGOAL Steel Trading and Fabrication has secured a P450-million from the International Exchange Bank to rehabilitate National Steel Corp.'s steel plant in Iligan province in Mindanao.

In a news briefing, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista said the loan was arranged by iBank shareholder Ben Tiu, who was part of a group that supported Allengoal's bid to lease NSC's facilities.

Allengoal offered to rehabilitate NSC's Iligan steel plant and lease it for P17.8 million a month.

Should NSC reach a deal to sell all its facilities to a long-term investor, however, Allengoal offered to pre-terminate its lease contract provided it be reimbursed the full cost of the rehabilitation, restoration and maintenance of the Iligan plant.

NSC liquidator and former SEC Associate Commissioner Danilo Concepcion said NSC had yet to receive a concrete proposal from a long-term buyer following the withdrawal of Ispat International NV from its offer to pump in $150 million into the steel company.

The SEC has asked Concepcion to comment on Allengoal's amended proposed plan.

Bautista said the SEC would also seek reactions from NSC's creditors.

The SEC ordered the liquidation of NSC in October last year after the company and its majority stockholder, Hottick Investments Ltd., failed to submit a rehabilitation plan.

NSC, once the country's largest steel firm, has about P19 billion in liabilities.

Lucio Tan holds key to fate of NSC

(From page B1)

give any local steel-maker the edge in certain segments of the market such as steel billets.

Hopes for the reopening of NSC have been bolstered by the renewal of ties between the Philippines and Malaysia following the change in administration. Relations between the two countries were strained during President Estrada's term when NSC was closed down at the prodding of its creditors and the Malaysians could not unload their shares to interested investors.

The Malaysian government's privatization arm, Danaharta Pengurusan Bhd., has taken over the interest of financially troubled Renong Bhd.'s assets including its 82.5-percent interest in NSC. Renong, through Hottick Investments, had previously bailed out the Wing Tiek Group of Malaysia, which won the bidding for NSC's controlling stake in 1996.

Roxas and other government officials met with NSC management committee chair Ibrahim Bidn last week to explore opportunities to solve the prolonged stalemate between NSC's Philippine creditors and the Malaysian government.

Roxas said Bidn agreed to look for alternative funding from his Malaysian principals and from other interested parties to reopen NSC. He said both the Philippine and Malaysian governments have concurred that it was in the interest of both parties to reopen NSC as soon as possible and prevent its assets from being dissipated further. Roxas explained that this move could run parallel with the creditor-banks' efforts to look for new investors in the company.

But the parties involved should start getting their acts together soon as investors were steadily losing interest in the company. Dutch steelmaker Ispat International NV has pulled out its offer to acquire a controlling stake in NSC due to its inability to raise funding for a takeover in the face of plunging capital markets.

Other groups that have expressed interest in NSC are Novolipetsk Iron and Steel Corp. of Russia, Duferco S.A., Grupo Jacinto, Allengoal, Glencore Holdings, the Cathay Pacific Steel Co. group, and the Pentium group.

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METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Metro Pacific Corporation (the "Company") will be held on Friday, 27 April 2001, 4:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of Building A, Bonifacio Centre, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and approve the Presidents' Report and the Annual report for the year 2000.
2. To consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2000 contained in the Annual Report.
3. To ratify all acts of the Board of Directors and Management for the year 2000.
4. To elect the Directors of the Company for the ensuing year.
5. To consider and act upon the appointment of independent auditors.
6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 16 March 2001 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

By order of the Board

ANTONIO A. PICAZO
Corporate Secretary
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For more detailed information, please contact:
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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Goodbye

Q. Where did 'goodbye' come from?

A. In the Middle Ages, English speakers bid farewell by saying "God be with ye," a characteristically pious comment similar to the French *adieu* and the Spanish *adios*, both literally meaning "to God." However, the English form lost its religiosity, and as early as Shakespeare's time was coming out as "God bye." And by the early 19th century, it was further distorted to our present-day 'Goodbye.' What about the phrase 'So long?' Experts link it to the Hebrew *shalom* and the Arabic *salaam*—'Peace'—but the most plausible origin is the German *solange*, or 'until that time (that we meet again).

For the Record. Filipinos, like Americans, tend to wave goodbye with the hand up, palm out, wrist stiff, and with a back-and-forth motion with the whole forearm and hand. However, in much of Europe that gesture does not mean 'goodbye'—it signifies 'no.' The customary European way to wave 'goodbye' or 'hello' is with the arm up and extended out, with the palm down, and just the hand bobbing up and down at the wrist. In direct contrast, Italians and Greeks will often wave goodbye with the arm extended, palm up, curling all the fingers back and forth toward themselves. Most of us interpret this gesture as meaning 'come here.'

Classified Odd. In Toronto, Canada, Franco Brun choked to death on a pocket Bible. The medical examiner speculated that the 22-year-old man had tried to swallow the 874-page Bible to purge himself of the Devil.

WORD WATCH

Valediction (val'e dik shun) : a farewell statement or speech.

PDI – April 3, 2001

OBITUARIES

PRESENTACION ALFONSO JUDILLA

peacefully passed on to Eternal Life at the age of 62, on April 1, 2001.

Her bereaved family; mother **Gregoria Bacani Alfonso**; children **Meaj** and **Brian Minor**; sisters and brothers **Hermie** and **Oscar Maiquez**, **Philip** and **Mary Ann Abella**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at the San Pablo City Cathedral Resurrection Chapel. Interment will be on April 4 at San Gabriel Memorial Park, San Pablo City, after the 3:00 PM Holy Mass.

DOMINGA DIMAAPI GREGORIO

of Baliuag, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 31, 2001 at the age of 78

Her loving husband Daniel Sr.; children Bert and Nenita, Lino and Gloria, Terry and Fe, Rudy and Medy, Daniel Jr. and Cely, Max and Cora, Rey and Mercy, Mon and Baby, Nila and Noel, Mario and Magine, Romy and Marissa, and Juliet; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters and brothers, other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in Tarcan, Baliuag, Bulacan. Interment will be today at Maniego Cemetery Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

On the 23rd Anniversary of the death of

JOAQUIN MA. "JACKY" DEL ROSARIO

who passed away on April 3, 1978.

Holy Masses will be offered today at the ff:

6:00 PM **Mary the Queen Church**, *Greenhills*
6:15 PM **Santuario de San Jose**, *Greenhills*
6:00 PM **Christ the King Church**, *Green Meadows*

His family and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

A touch of stone in your home

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

PICTURE a Tagaytay vacation house stuffed with wood-fired stones. Or a cluster of Sahara cobblestones built into a country club. Adding to this the location: it sits close to a ravine.

The landscaped walls of mansions, countryside homes, even restaurants and churches have a look of added prestige—and a touch of permanence—if these have artificial stones.

Artificial stones are fast becoming design material favorites among Philippine establishments and homes. After all, aside from their impressive look, they weigh less than natural stones, making them easier and faster to work with.

Apart from this, artificial stone advocates say these stones retain little moisture. Natural stones don't repel as much moisture, so they form *lumot* (mold) and could soften the structure. Artificial stones, they claim, are not prone to such natural processes.

Buildcom Inc. is an exclusive franchisee of the world-renowned Eldorado Stone building stone veneer. The Philippine franchise exports to countries such as Japan and the United States. Its local plant is based in Taguig and its growth pattern in terms of volume was described by president and CEO Ed Bitanga to be increasing by as much as 30-fold a year.

Bitanga added that its gauge is its substantial growth in the Philippine market. Its sales performance had multiplied by as much as 16-fold. Ironically, he added, the growth continued even during the volatile period of the Estrada impeachment trial.

Contractors and architects, Buildcom stressed, have always striven to achieve the look and feel of American architecture. The Eldorado Stone line has been described as "exact replicas of rock formations native only to North America."

Congo Grille Restaurants, Beavertails Food chain, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Cebu Waterfront Hotel, homes in Forbes Park, Dasmariñas Village, Ayala Alabang Village, Corinthian Gardens and Green Meadows are just some of the showcases of Eldorado Stone in the Philippines.

The stones of Eldorado could also be found in Canyon Woods and Punta Fuego.

Stone Age, meanwhile, also boasts of a number of residential clients in exclusive subdivisions. Orders come from Tagaytay vacation houses. Clients, usually between the 30 and 50 age group, want country, Mediterranean and American homes. Such types of homes, said Stone Age general manager Richard Barria, use artificial stones as an essential design element.

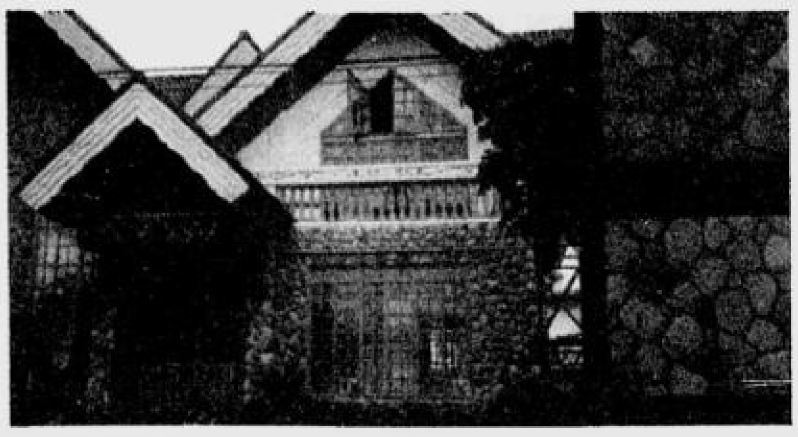
Barria said the Philippines is catching up with its United States and European counterparts in terms of the use of artificial stones. Clients even come from Visayas and Mindanao. Barria added that customers are not limited to exclusive villages. He said stones are a must even for countryside homes.

"In new constructions, stones are already part of the design, and it's not just an option anymore," he added.

"About 25 percent of the materials used for the manufacturing of artificial stones are imported while 75 percent are found locally," he said.

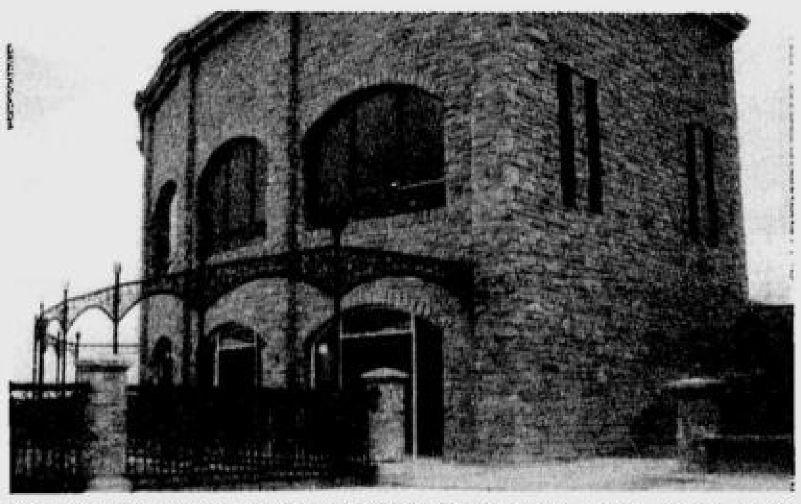
THE RUSTIC look of the Carmel of Our Lady in the Philippine countryside showcased the interior and exterior materials of Eldorado Stones. (PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.BUILDCOMINC.COM)

SALMON Stacked Stone was used to achieve the circular effect the sisters of the Carmel of Our Lady wanted. (PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.BUILDCOMINC.COM)



A VACATION house in Georgetown, Tagaytay, makes use of Stone Age's 'Sandstorm' and 'Wood Fired.'

ELDORADO'S 'Standard Cobblestone'



SPLENDIDO Golf and Country Club in Tagaytay marks Stone Age's architectural structure showpiece.

One Mercedes Plaza ready for occupancy

ONE Mercedes Properties Inc., headed by businessman E. Caruncho III, has constructed One Mercedes Plaza, a two-story commercial complex that will house Rustan's Expresslane and Jollibee as its anchor tenants, plus a bevy of fast-food outlets, boutiques and other service-oriented shops.

The 2,670 sq-meter edifice, now ready for occupancy, boasts of fully air-conditioned common areas, a spacious food court, well-appointed restrooms and a parking lot that can accommodate 75 cars. Apart from Rustan's and Jolibee, other establishments have signed up for tenancy. Among them are BPI Express Banking Center, Consumer Drug, Mr. Quickie, Sonyda Ichiban, Broadway Gems, Tamiya Store, Zagu, Reyes Skin and Dental Clinic, and Just Gold.

The soon-to-open mini-mall is conveniently located at the corner of Mercedes Avenue and Market Avenue in Barangay San Miguel in Pasig City.

Inspired by a Spanish contemporary look, it also features an atrium and an escalator leading to the mall's second floor. Building administrator Carlos Alincastre assures of a 24-hour security service, a generator set to ensure uninterrupted water supply and deep well to service continuous water supply.

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Inside CERAMIC PLAZA-Almanza
OPENING SALE UP TO 60% OFF! ON STYLNUL SPANISH TILES
ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS
OPEN DAILY UP TO 7:00 PM
In front of SM Southmall, Lot 7, Alabang Zapote Rd. Brgy. Almanza, LPC
Tels. 801-7152
800-7131, 32 & 34
ALABANG
Estrellita Bldg. Unit 2&3 Alabang Zapote Road
TEL 850-7098
TO ZAPOTE ALABANG ZAPOTE ROAD TO ALABANG SM SOUTHMALL
DTI NCR Permit No. AII-066 Series of 2001

STYLNUL	SIZE	Sale Price/pc.	Pcs./sq. m.	Retail price/sq. m.
FLOOR	33 cm X 33 cm (13" X 13") 40 cm X 40 cm (16" X 16") 45 cm X 45 cm (18" X 18")	P40.00 P64.00 P88.00	9 6 5	P360.00 P384.00 P440.00
WALL	20 cm X 20 cm (8" X 8") 20 cm X 30 cm (8" X 12") 25 cm X 40 cm (10" X 16")	P14.40 P22.40 P40.00	25 16 10	P360.00 P358.40 P400.00

EUROTILES SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
HCG BATHROOM FIXTURES
Saveflush
METRO MANILA BRANCHES
MANILA [illegible]
SUCAT [illegible]
PASAY [illegible]
TAYTAY [illegible]
LAS PIÑAS [illegible]
MARCOS HI-WAY [illegible]
PASIG [illegible]
ALABANG Estrellita Bldg. Unit 2&3 Alabang Zapote Road [illegible]
QUEZON AVENUE [illegible]
MUNTINLUPA [illegible]
KARUHATAN [illegible]
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA 372 4087 • 372 1583 OPEN DAILY UP TO 7:00 pm
PROVINCIAL BRANCHES
MEYCAUAYAN [illegible]
WAKAS, BOCAUE [illegible]
TURO, BOCAUE [illegible]
GUIGUINTO [illegible]
MALOLOS [illegible]
BALIUAG [illegible]
ANGELES [illegible]
TARLAC [illegible]
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 37 Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 416 3743
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM

NEW MILLENNIUM CHURCH

Support of the faithful needed to complete construction

(Last of two parts)

"OUR target date of completion is in the year 2003, in time for the Pope's visit for the International Family Congress to be held here in the Philippines. His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin has already made a personal commitment to invite the Holy Father himself to inaugurate and bless the new church and proclaim it as a shrine," said Danny Sevilla, the construction committee chair.

He further said that from generous donors, the friends and the faithful, they were grateful to have raised a substantial amount that supported the construction of the said first and second phases of the project.

Fund-raising projects

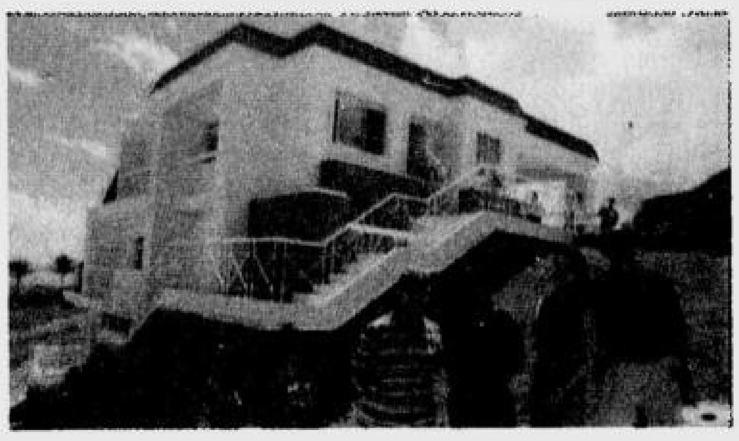
However, he emphasized that since it will still be a long way toward the completion of the new church, they will continue with the various fund-raising projects to keep the donations coming and be able to generate enough funds which they still need to facilitate its construction.

Along this line, Sevilla aired his appeal by enjoining the public, the faithful and all sectors of society to be a part of their new church, which is envisioned to be a symbol of a new beginning, looking forward, moving onward, sharing the new life, open to all, magnanimous, abundant with love and alive with faith.

He said that anyone could be a part of the new church by participating in its fund-raising projects to generate funds for the church construction such as:

- **Buy-a-block project**—A person may buy one or more blocks valued at P5,000 each. Family members may help one another to raise the amount for one block. You may also help by recommending people outside the parish or abroad, who might be willing to share in this gift. If you own a block, you will be part of the seed that will grow to become the new church.
- **Keep-a-crypt**—There will be 500 memorial slots inside the church columbarium where the memories of our departed loved ones may be kept. Each crypt is valued initially at P50,000 and may be reserved with an initial donation of P5,000.
- **Overseas donors program**—All possible donations coming from abroad, not only from Filipinos but also from other nationals. You may nominate friends and relatives working and/or residing abroad and they will be sent solicitation letters and promotional materials containing information on the new church and how they can transmit donations to the parish.
- **Table donations**—Any amount not meant for any specific offerings but for the new church. You may approach the donation table at the church entrance or you may go to the parish office for personal donations.
- **Sponsorships**--Donations for specific areas, sections or corners of the church such as the Marian chapel or the Perpetual Adoration chapel, the altar or a portal.
- **Material donations**—Donations for materials and equipment such as reinforcing bars, insulated glass, aircon units, suction pumps, etc. needed to complete the church construction.
- **Other Gifts**—These are other equally more valuable gifts we can share such as talents, services, prayers and inspiration, gifts that make us a whole lot richer.

For further details, please call up Fr. Ceasar Santos R. Bahan, CSS, acting parish priest of the parish of the Five Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ, at 801-4020 and 800-1456.



LATEST MODEL UNITS

Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay recently inaugurated its new model units—the Rosewood Manor and Cedarbrook. First Georgetown Ventures Inc. general manager Richie Yang, architect Vince Quizon, interior designer Pixie Olivares and FGVI president George Yang are shown in front of the Cedarbrook model. The posh three-floor structure is situated on a 386.7-square-meter lot and has a floor area of 435 sq. m. It houses four bedrooms, four toilets and baths, a 2-car garage, driver's quarter, powder room, a balcony and a cozy fireplace perfect for Tagaytay's highland climate. Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate is an exclusive community designed for people who crave for a retreat close to Metro Manila.

Site dev't work on at Lakeshore

CENTRAL Country Estates Inc. announced today the appointment of Bonifacio Construction Management Corp. as project managers for the development of its 234-hectare Lakeshore urban community project in Mexico, Pampanga. Headed by president and general manager Andy Freeman, BCMC is a joint-venture company between Bovis Lend Lease, an ISO-9001 accredited international construction management firm, and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the Bonifacio Global City, and will utilize Davis Langdon & Seah as its cost consultant. BCMC and DLS have a record of successful projects on which they have collaborated to date.

FREEMAN

The Lakeshore project is a self-contained urban community development located 71 kilometers north of Manila along the North Luzon Tollway. Site development work for the 125-hectare first phase of the Lakeshore project has commenced. Mediterranean-style model houses together with their respective landscapes will soon be ready for viewing by prospective buyers.

The Lakeshore is envisioned as a leisure hub of the future in Central Luzon. Its main feature is a 12-hectare man-made lake, the first of its kind in the Philippines. With the surrounding views of the lush greenery of the plain and hills of Pampanga, it offers an urban setting different from the dense atmosphere of Metro Manila. It will also feature a bird sanctuary.

Central Country Estates has also engaged Filipinas Dravo as the project's engineering consultant. The company expects to complete the first phase of the project within 3 years.

Central Country Estates is a consortium composed of Metro Pacific Corp., Nobleman Properties and N.S. Mangio Construction and Development Corp.

GROUNDBREAKING

Earth+Style Corp. president and CEO Vic H. Manarang (center) leads the groundbreaking ceremonies for Villa Villaggio, a sprawling 20-hectare home solution in Barangay Buenavista I, Gen. Trias, Cavite. Villa Villaggio is a part of the 54-hectare property being developed by Earth+Style Corp. designed to advocate a culturally rich, yet convenient and contemporary lifestyle, characterized by a balance of elements and priorities. Joining him, from left, are Peter Cadorna, president of Earthlink Realty Corp., a sales subsidiary of Earth+Style; Ruth Apple Hurtado, business management team head; engineer Ferdie Soliman, business management team head for home solutions; Wai Ming Wong, vice president for marketing; Louie Icasiano, president of Earth Exchange, another sales subsidiary of E+S; and Grace Ayento, marketing communications manager.

US pioneer in warehouse membership shopping specializes in design

S&R PRICE Membership Shopping, the pioneer in warehouse membership shopping in the United States, is building its first store in the Philippines at the Bonifacio Global City using the latest construction methods. The project is to be completed in time for its opening in May.

The 5,000-square-meter structure, aptly called "smart building," is specially designed for handling high-volume, quick-turn merchandise and high-foot traffic in the most efficient, comfortable, and low-cost fashion. Rack dimensions are designed to be in proportion to the forklift to maximize productivity, while the overhead steel above the floor stock holds backup inventory, avoiding storage costs.

The triple high ceilings, ample aisles, and cement floors that the Prices pioneered in the "Price Club" are used today in membership shopping warehouses all over the world.

Self-contained structure

The structure will be self-contained, with generators and water tanks. The cooling system is water-based, which is environment-friendly as there is no need for freon. Ceilings have skylights to take advantage of the day's natural light, while the warehouse lighting design incorporates photocell sensors that determine how much light is needed, thereby saving energy.

S&R Price Membership Shopping officials said the equipment and materials being used in the Global City store are the same as those used in all other outlets, which are guaranteed efficient and last up to 20 years.

The S&R Price Membership Shopping warehouses are designed to withstand natural calamities such as typhoons and earthquakes. The warehouse design was put to a test last February in El Salvador wherein the two S&R Price warehouses withstood the powerful quake with no structural damages.

Faster completion

Construction of these warehouses usually takes only five and a half months to complete, faster than standard duration for building such structures.

The warehouse is being built at the intersection of 32nd Street and 5th Avenue in the improved portion of the Fort Bonifacio master-planned development. The route is directly connected to the Kalayaan-Buendia flyover, which will provide direct access to the site from the west, specifically Makati.

Fort Bonifacio is also completing a major highway interchange at C-5 and 32nd Street for an excellent access to the S&R Price Membership Shopping warehouse from the east, while 5th Avenue connects to both McKinley Road and Lawton Avenue in the south.

For shoppers' convenience, there will be a bus stop in front of the warehouse and public telephones within the vicinity. There will also be a parking area with a capacity for 400 cars, the standard size in the United States.

First foreign retailer

The S&R Price Membership Shopping is the first foreign retailer to operate in the local market under Republic Act 8762, or the Retail Trade Liberalization Act Law. The company intends to open up to 10 warehouses in the Philippines, with a corresponding investment of $7.5 to $10 million per warehouse.

To secure the company's position in Metro Manila, the signing of a second and third lease was recently announced. The second warehouse will be located in the Pasig City section of Metro Manila, and is scheduled to be operational by last quarter of the year and the third early in 2002.

Riverbanks Center on the rise

GOOD environment is good business.

This is the winning formula of Riverbanks Development Corp. with its flagship project, the Riverbanks Center, proving that ecology need not be traded off for industrialism. In fact, Riverbanks Center logo—a bright fusion of sun, water and multilevel buildings—is a constant reminder for the RDC to stay put in its commitment to preserve the nature and build the community on its way to progress. And what else can be more rewarding for the RDC than seeing Riverbanks Center expand its offerings to the public to make crossing of the Marikina River and Marcos Bridge a major gateway to the eastern provinces and become a favorite one-stop family destination of Marikina and its nearby communities.

"There are very few open spaces in the city today and the people need those spaces to enjoy and appreciate nature. This is why people from all walks of life are drawn to Riverbanks Center," explains RDC president Meneleo Carlos on the increasing popularity of this 2-year-old commercial and recreational complex on A. Bonifacio Avenue in Marikina. At present, there are about 200 tenants from small-scale to established enterprises forging partnership with Riverbanks, revealing the business sector's confidence to the fast-growing center.

Extension

The Riverbanks Mall, for one, was extended a few months back to accommodate more shopping amenities like its very own OFF-Price Department Store, the Green Gallery occupied by tenants from Greenhills offering imported ready-to-wear garments and other specialty stores such as Guess USA, Itti Shoes, The Handyman, Characters Unlimited, Jun Encarnacion Salon, Fashion Forum, Dakt Toys, Save-On Surplus, Bayad Center and Cebu Pacific. Noted food franchises such as Jollibee, Chowking, Zagu, Goldilocks and Texas Chicken now add to the numerous food stores spread on the food hall and along the busy lanes of the mall. For their groceries, residents run to Save More Supermarket, which is conveniently placed at the mall's main entrance. All these plus a galore of shopping and amusement attractions for young and old alike are housed at the Riverbanks Mall.

Riverbanks is also lauded by the community for regularly coming up with new attractions that spur its guests to appreciate their surroundings. Recently made available to the public is the Riverbanks Campsite, a 2-hectare stretch of green perched on the panoramic Riverbanks Amphitheater overlooking the Marikina River. Riverbanks aims to provide a close-to-nature camping experience to nature lovers anytime of the day at very friendly rates.

Go carts and horseback rides likewise add to the various forms of outdoor and indoor entertainment offered by the RDC such as pedal boats, bikes, billiards, 4WD mini-car racing and ballroom dancing. The newest attraction at the RDC, the Family Entertainment Center offers carnival rides, inflatable balloon ride, mini stage, Science works, party rooms, retail shop, food carts, board and interactive games and video machines. The rates are relatively more affordable compared to those offered by its rival parks and amusement centers.

"Riverbanks makes full use of its existing facilities rehabilitating everything that can be enjoyed by the people with less cash outlay. The catch here is to be resourceful and creative," says Carlos.

Conversion

The site used to be a garment factory (Universal Textile or Utex) until 1995 when Carlos acquired the property and consulted with world-class experts in property development and marketing. Among these experts were Palafox and Associates Inc., Australian outfit Don Burnett and Associates, Asestr and Colliers Jardine, and Duan Quintal Associates, which developed the Riverbanks logo. The conversion of Utex into a commercial center was inspired from similar conversion projects in the United States popularizing "factory outlets," in which existing facilities of good condition are not demolished but rehabilitated. This means lesser cost to the company and less purchasing burden to the consumers.

Another breakthrough to watch out for at Riverbanks Center is the opening of Kalayaan College this coming school year. Founded by a group of professors from the University of the Philippines led by former UP president Jose V. Abuena, KC aims to provide higher quality education in the science and liberal arts. Among the courses offered are bachelor's degree in computer science, business administration, literature, public administration, secondary education (English) and early childhood care development. It also offers a program leading to a master's degree in language teaching and several short courses.

Carlos is bullish in his long-term vision for Riverbanks of "keeping pace with the needs of the nation and being a constant partner in the Filipino's quest for better quality life while promoting traditions, values and culture."

Riverbanks Center is part of the vision to develop a Central Business District around crossing the Marikina River and Marcos Bridge that will serve as a major gateway to the eastern provinces. It complements the major plans of the government to provide a transportation network converging on this sector including the MRT 2 in 2002 and another bridge connecting to Marcos Highway.

READY BY JUNE FOR SCHOOL OPENING

The International Center for Information Technology Education building at Eastwood City has reached the last stages of construction and will be ready for the school year 2001-2002 opening in June. An integral part of the Eastwood City Cyberpark, the country's premier IT park, ICITE will provide the CyberPark locators, the Philippines and the region with an IT research and development center and a source of IT manpower.

Realtors group turns 42

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc., a professional association of real estate brokers who conduct their business with ethics and public service in mind, is celebrating its 42 years of professional practice.

Its business thrust this year is to be an active partner of the government in helping pump-prime the economy toward stability and growth.

Understanding that housing is one of the essential industries necessary in building a nation, the officers members of this realtor's board is ready to team up with our government's plans and become a launching pad from which development and industrialization can take off.

Following President Macapagal-Arroyo's motto "Leadership by Example," the Pasay-Makati Realtors Board is ready to lead the industry by example by standing firm on their principles and trustworthiness and unwavering in their practice of professional real estate brokerage.

This year's anniversary celebration and induction of officers will be held on April 6 at 7 p.m. at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City.

How a stubborn Cebuano brought home Sentricon

IT took a newspaper article, long distance phone calls and an obstinate Cebuano businessman to bring the revolutionary termite colony elimination system to the South's Queen City.

Touted by pest control experts as having taken the industry by storm, Sentricon System was developed by Dow AgroSciences, US-based industry leader in pest control technologies. In 1999, the technology that protects the US Statue of Liberty and many millions of homes across America and other countries in Europe and Asia was finally made available in the Philippines, in Metro Manila particularly.

The once "icky" subject of *anay* (termite) became a hot conversation piece in office boardrooms and intimate dinner parties. Satisfied clients would gush how, after many years of searching and much trial (and error), they have finally found the termite treatment that will keep those pesky mites off their properties, for good.

Headaches

Meantime, in Cebu, businessman Manny Limtong from Paseo Ma. Luisa Miguel, was having headaches over sagging floors and ceilings in his two-story home. He has had two pest control companies treat the house and make diggings around the property. For two years he put up with exterminators spraying chemical on wood surfaces in his home, the sanctuary of his wife Angeline and their three children, aged four to eight. But to his chagrin, the problem persisted. Limtong surfed the Net for a solution and came across the Sentricon System website. He thought the technology made a lot of sense and was sufficiently intrigued by the "colony elimination" concept. At about the same time, a major broadsheet featured a testimonial of a happy Sentricon client, which Limtong happened to read. The Cebuano then decided to give Sentricon System Manila office a ring.

The problem was, at the time, Sentricon System was only available in Manila; there was no local office in Cebu. But this did not stop the stubborn businessman from getting the services of breakthrough Sentricon System. He demanded that the system be brought to Cebu and after a few weeks, the Sentricon System team was there in his home, busy at work.

Total protection

The revolutionary Sentricon System offers total protection against termites because it works by getting the pernicious pests where they live. Feeding stations are installed in and around the structure without having to drill through walls and floors, thus preserving the property's natural landscape and causing less disruption to daily activities. Once the termites feed into the bait, the process of colony elimination begins: the termites ingest a type of insect growth inhibitor that stops the molting process and in time, all the termites in the colony will die. After entire colonies have been eliminated, regular monitoring takes place to prevent future termite attacks.

After only a few weeks of regular treatment, Limtong happily noticed that the voracious termites that gnawed away the ceiling on the ground floor and the wood outside his home, had been effectively extinguished. For a month or two, Sentricon System technicians would visit his house every week to inspect the baits. Limtong himself inspected the baits and saw firsthand that the colony has been "checked," enthusing that Sentricon System is indeed effective. He makes special mention of the fact that unlike traditional termiticides, the system posed no risk to his children since no nasty odors emanated from it.

Cebu launch

On Feb.10, Sentricon System was formally launched in historic Cebu. Guests, media personalities and home/property owners were treated to cocktails plus a home and garden fashion show-cum-exhibit. Dow AgroSciences senior scientist Dr. David Ouimette was flown in from abroad to prove to Cebuanos why experts regard Sentricon System as the most significant termite control development the industry has seen in decades.

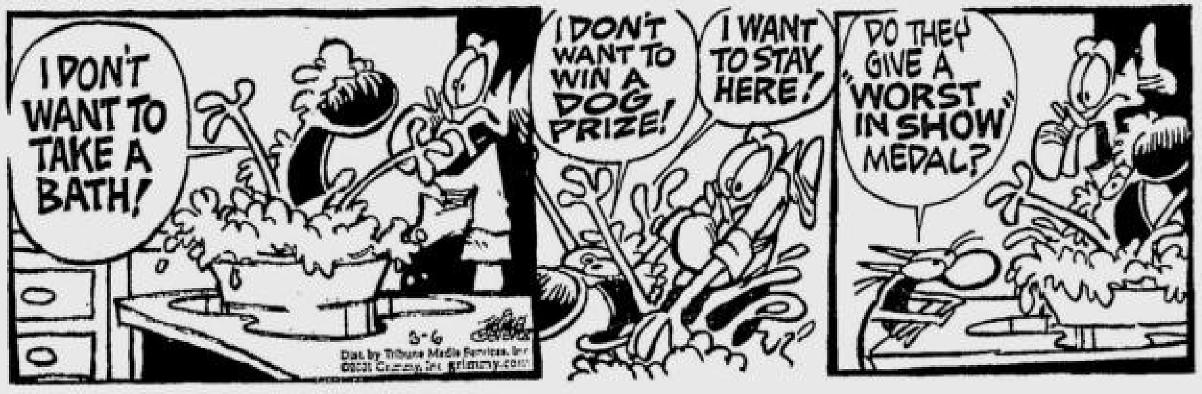
Cebu-based termites will soon be biting the dust with the entry of Sentricon System in the local scene. Friends and associates of Limtong have been inquiring about the system. "Even before the Sentricon group came here, they all expressed willingness to try the new technology," he states. Touted as the new urban home essential, Sentricon System, observers say, will definitely be a must in many stylish homes in Cebu, keeping creeping, uninvited guests out.

These days, Limtong is busy tending to his printing business, Limtong Press Inc., a company that prints labels, calendars and other advertising materials. He lovingly watches over his family and his now termite-free home. His message to other home and property owners? "Invest in a system that will protect your greatest lifetime investment, your house, one that will get rid of the termite problem for good. If you really value your property, go with professionals that will give you the best possible protection for your home."

COMIC Relief

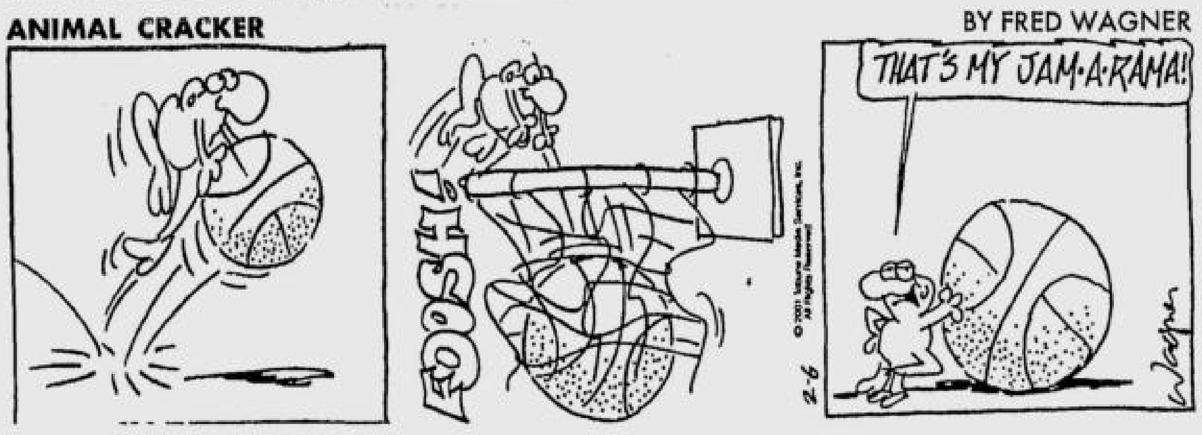
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A BATH!
I DON'T WANT TO WIN A DOG PRIZE!
I WANT TO STAY HERE!
DO THEY GIVE A "WORST IN SHOW" MEDAL?
3-6
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

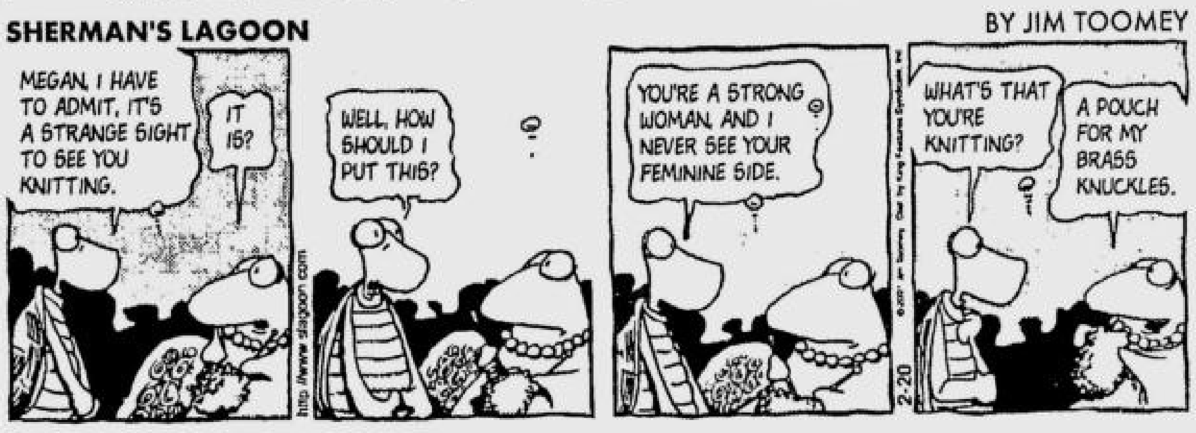
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


FOOSH
2-6
THAT'S MY JAM·A·RAMA!
Wagner

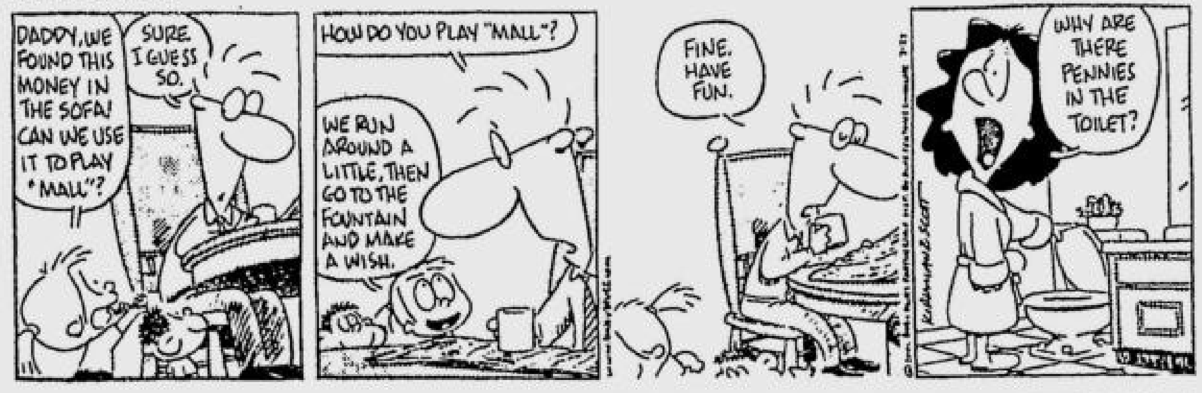
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S A STRANGE SIGHT TO SEE YOU KNITTING.
IT IS?
WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?
YOU'RE A STRONG WOMAN, AND I NEVER SEE YOUR FEMININE SIDE.
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE KNITTING?
A POUCH FOR MY BRASS KNUCKLES.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-20

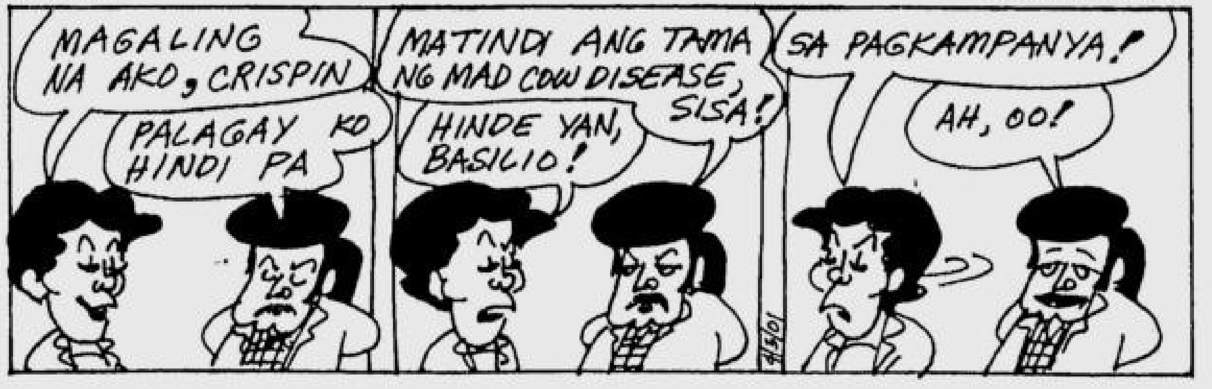
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, WE FOUND THIS MONEY IN THE SOFA! CAN WE USE IT TO PLAY "MALL"?
SURE. I GUESS SO.
HOW DO YOU PLAY "MALL"?
WE RUN AROUND A LITTLE, THEN GO TO THE FOUNTAIN AND MAKE A WISH.
FINE. HAVE FUN.
WHY ARE THERE PENNIES IN THE TOILET?

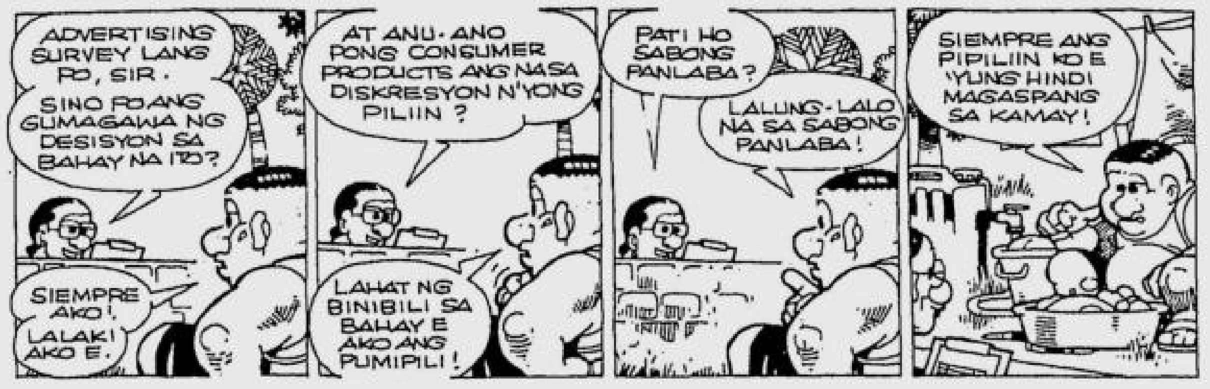
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAGALING NA AKO, CRISPIN
PALAGAY KO HINDI PA
MATINDI ANG TAMA NG MAD COW DISEASE, SISA!
HINDE YAN, BASILIO!
4-5-01
SA PAGKAMPANYA!
AH, OO!

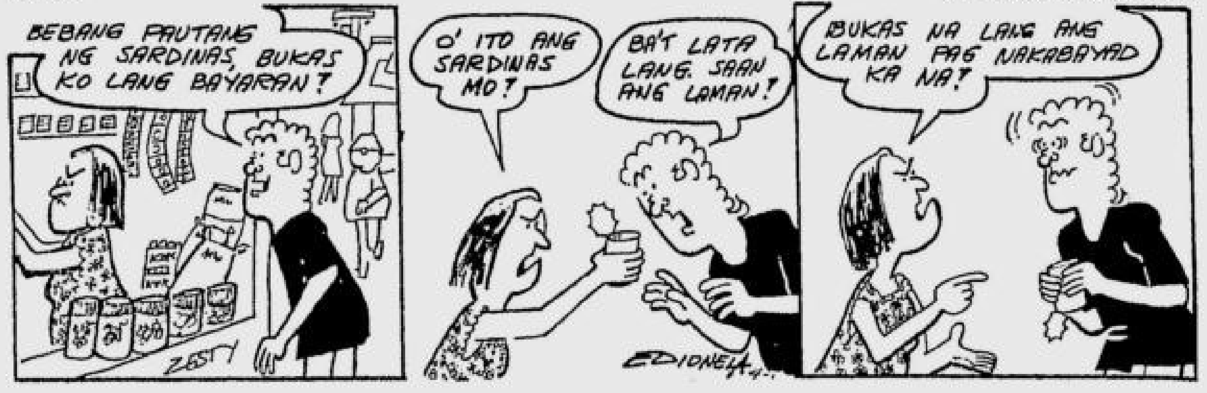
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ADVERTISING SURVEY LANG PO, SIR.
SINO PO ANG GUMAGAWA NG DESISYON SA BAHAY NA ITO?
SIEMPRE AKO! LALAKI AKO E.
AT ANU-ANO PONG CONSUMER PRODUCTS ANG NASA DISKRESYON N'YONG PILIIN?
LAHAT NG BINIBILI SA BAHAY E AKO ANG PUMIPILI!
PATI HO SABONG PANLABA?
LALUNG-LALO NA SA SABONG PANLABA!
SIEMPRE ANG PIPILIIN KO E 'YUNG HINDI MAGASPANG SA KAMAY!

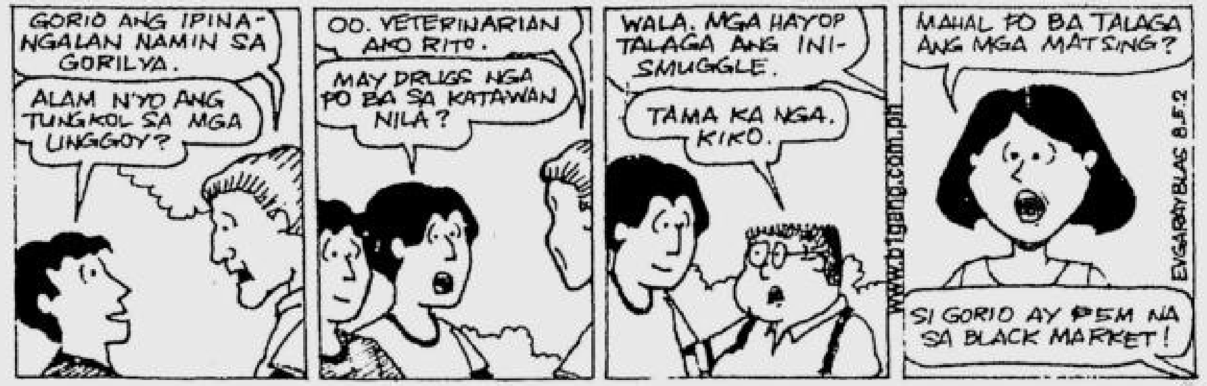
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BEBANG PAUTANG NG SARDINAS, BUKAS KO LANG BAYARAN?
ZESTY
O' ITO ANG SARDINAS MO?
BA'T LATA LANG. SAAN ANG LAMAN?
EDIONELA
BUKAS NA LANG ANG LAMAN PAG NAKABAYAD KA NA?

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


GORIO ANG IPINANGALAN NAMIN SA GORILYA.
ALAM N'YO ANG TUNGKOL SA MGA UNGGOY?
OO. VETERINARIAN AKO RITO.
MAY DRUGS NGA PO BA SA KATAWAN NILA?
WALA. MGA HAYOP TALAGA ANG INI-SMUGGLE.
TAMA KA NGA, KIKO.
www.b1gang.com.ph
MAHAL PO BA TALAGA ANG MGA MATSING?
SI GORIO AY ₱5M NA SA BLACK MARKET!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.F.2

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jane Goodall, Alec Baldwin, Marlon Brando, Wayne Newton, Eddie Murphy, Doris Day, Jennie Garth, David Hyde Pierce, Picabo Street

Happy Birthday: If you are quick to pick up on how to apply your talents, your creative energy can't be beat this year. Your unique approach to love as well as to life will attract plenty of attention and bring the results you've been hoping for. Prepare to make the necessary changes in the first half of the year. In the second half you should hold your ground. Your numbers: 13, 22, 25, 31, 33, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get down to business and get into shape. Involvement with children will keep you hopping. Go after your dreams. Use your initiative to get the ball rolling.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't overspend on luxury items for your home. Don't react too quickly if someone you live with is hard to get along with. Do your own thing and don't take anything that is said to heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting together with family and friends will be conducive to meeting romantic partners. You will be in the mood for love, and your outgoing nature will open doors that you thought were closed.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your pessimistic attitude take over if you plan on keeping your mate happy. You will tend to overspend if you go shopping. Lowered vitality will result in a moody outlook.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional outbursts will be due to stress. You've managed to back yourself into a corner once again. You're going to have to rely on your imagination to help you find a good solution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from your past experiences. You must learn to listen to the advice given by others. Changes in your home may be necessary. The longer you let things go, the worse they'll get.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll meet interesting people who will spark some good ideas in you concerning money-making opportunities if you attend trade shows or just get out and mingle. You need to make new friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Promises are likely to be broken. If you try to finalize a deal, be sure to get it in writing. Problems at home will surface if you have been working overtime too much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel will provide you with the adventure and excitement you require. Combine business and pleasure if possible. You will find that peers may be jealous or envious of your luck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be coerced into joint ventures that you aren't too sure about. State your case and back out if you have doubts. Take a look at conservative long-term investments.

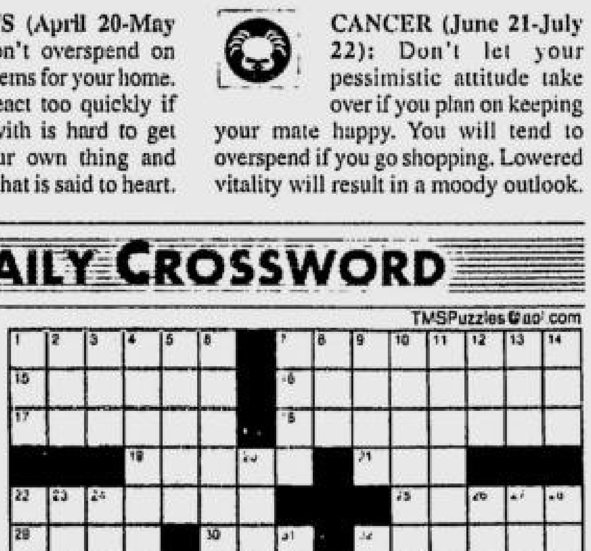
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Lovers' quarrels will develop if you don't channel your energy wisely. This is not the best time to discuss your intentions with your mate even if you do feel the urge to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your health will suffer if you neglect your diet or if you're excessive in your habits. Take some time out for rest and relaxation.

Birthday Baby: You have everyone in your world wrapped around your finger. You are entertaining, engaging and certainly know how to put on a show. You have pizzazz, charisma and the wherewithal to take a risk if necessary.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

2/17/01

ACROSS
1 Pop Art painter Andy
7 "The Four Seasons" star
15 Extreme folly
16 "Finlandia" composer
17 More regal
18 Lists
19 Posts
21 Get the picture
22 Rhythm
25 Sound asleep?
29 Woodcutter's tools
30 Took seats
32 Ringer, almost
33 Decompose
34 Lay waste
36 Alternatives to lagers
38 Wilder and McCarthy
39 Roberts or Sevareid
40 Military victor
42 Sept. follower
43 Bring into harmony
44 Immediately
46 Model Macpherson
47 Ice fall
48 Got cozy
50 Wonderment
52 Ponderosa or South Fork, for example
53 Harding's successor
57 Three-bagger
61 Let loose
62 Developed into
63 Withdrawals
64 Fawning sycophant

DOWN
1 Take first
2 "Much ___ About Nothing"
3 Chest bone
4 Doyle's detective
5 Briny deep
6 Words set to music
7 Fire-sale phrase
8 Set on fire
9 Fortas and Lincoln
10 Unconquerable opponents
11 Estrange
12 Taylor of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"
13 Expected
14 Onager
20 Person in charge
22 Birthplace of Simon Bolivar
23 Salamander of the Southwest
24 Lessening of hostilities
26 Streaking
27 Cross hairs
28 Put up
31 Mortise insertion
32 Notes of scales
35 City of Shakespeare's two gentlemen
37 Rat fink
38 Golly!
41 Disentangle
45 Passed
46 Moral principles
49 Cliff-base heap of rocks
51 Writer Ferber
52 Crimson and scarlet
53 Bad dog
54 United
55 Make a choice
56 Obtain
58 Dawber or Tillis
59 "Little Women" author's initials
60 Post-dusk, in poems

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	S	S	■	O	M	A	N	■	P	A	B	L	O
A	L	O	E	■	H	O	P	E	■	E	L	I	A	S
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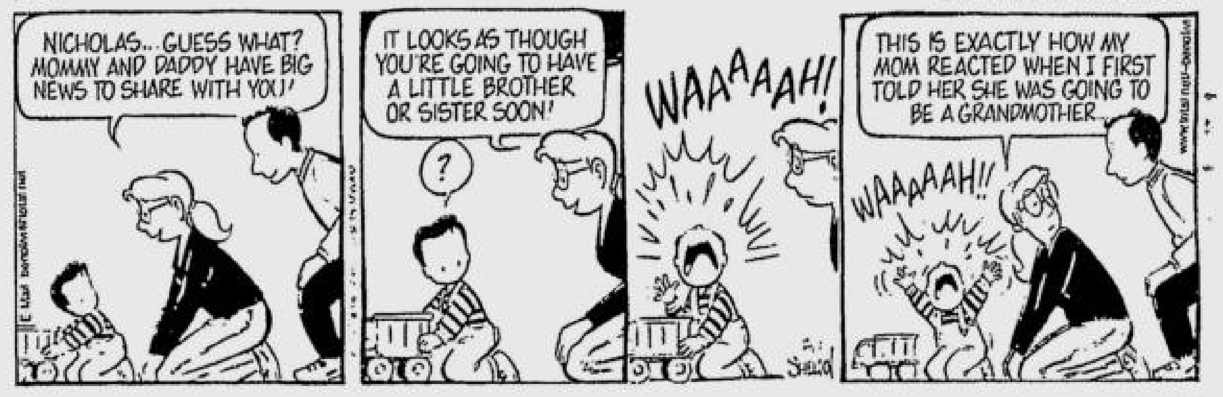
2/17/01

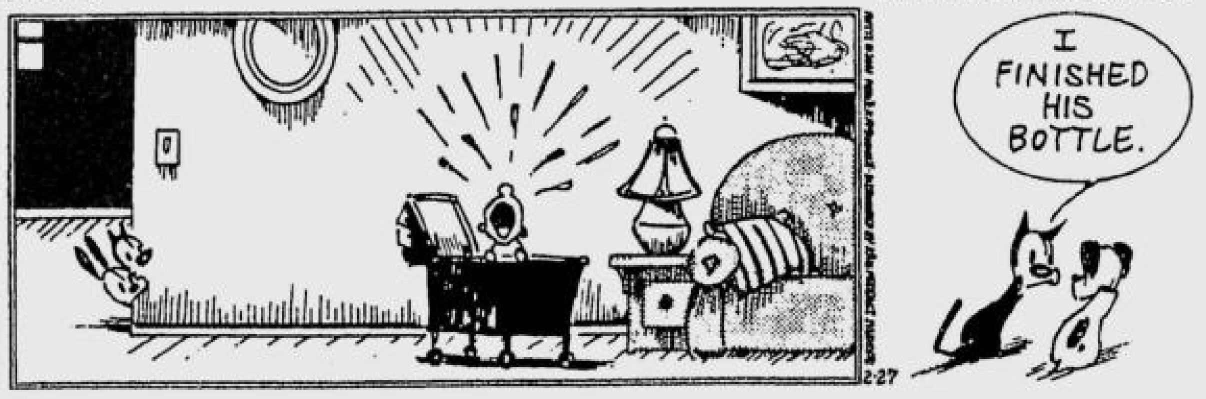
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS... GUESS WHAT? MOMMY AND DADDY HAVE BIG NEWS TO SHARE WITH YOU!
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER SOON!
?
WAAAAAH!
THIS IS EXACTLY HOW MY MOM REACTED WHEN I FIRST TOLD HER SHE WAS GOING TO BE A GRANDMOTHER.
WAAAAAH!!
Shelton

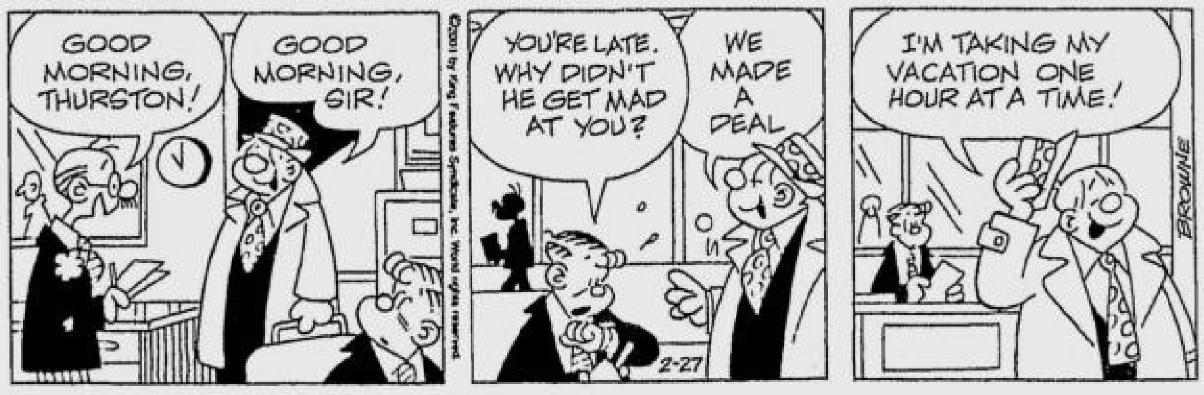
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I FINISHED HIS BOTTLE.
2-27

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


GOOD MORNING, THURSTON!
GOOD MORNING, SIR!
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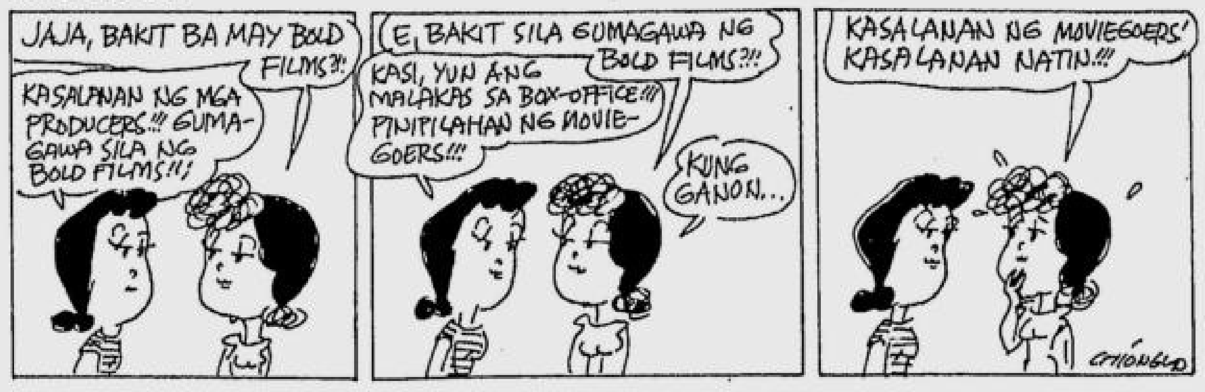
YOU'RE LATE. WHY DIDN'T HE GET MAD AT YOU?
WE MADE A DEAL
2-27
I'M TAKING MY VACATION ONE HOUR AT A TIME!
BROWNE

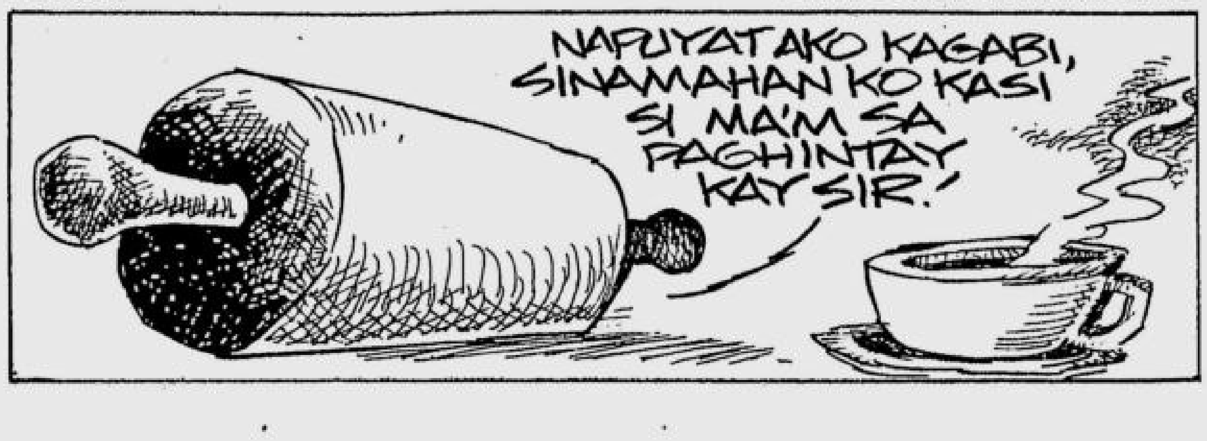
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, BAKIT BA MAY BOLD FILMS?!
KASALANAN NG MGA PRODUCERS!!! GUMAGAWA SILA NG BOLD FILMS!!!
E, BAKIT SILA GUMAGAWA NG BOLD FILMS?!!
KASI, YUN ANG MALAKAS SA BOX-OFFICE!!! PINIPILAHAN NG MOVIEGOERS!!!
KUNG GANON...
KASALANAN NG MOVIEGOERS! KASALANAN NATIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NAPUYAT AKO KAGABI, SINAMAHAN KO KASI SI MA'M SA PAGHINTAY KAY SIR!

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

Minimizing vacation weight gain

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

AS many of us have found out from past experience, vacations rejuvenate the body, mind and spirit, but they do have their downside—weight gain. That's because vacations take you away from the usual routine of your everyday life so your eating and exercise habits get all jumbled up.

We tend to eat more when we are with other people, and when we are on vacation, we are usually always surrounded by our friends or loved ones. If you are visiting an exotic place, food is part of the fun of exploring a new culture. It can really be tempting to throw all caution to the wind and just plain old pig out.

However, vacations don't last forever and in the end, reality bites. I have seen people return from a one-month vacation 10-20 pounds heavier. Not once have I heard anyone say that the meals they ate, no matter how heavenly, were worth the effort they now had to put in to remove the excess weight. In the long run, prevention is always better than the cure. So when you are on vacation this summer and you are tempted to have a second serving of that yummy chocolate cake or pizza, keep in mind a picture of you huffing and puffing and sweating.

This is not to say you shouldn't let yourself enjoy the goodies you normally deprive yourself of when you are back home. Just remember to keep things under control so you don't return from your holiday with unwanted baggage around your tummy, hips and thighs.

Fitness instructors are usually scared when their clients go on vacation because they fear the worst—that not only will their clients return out-of-shape and overweight, but that they will be so depressed about their situation that it will take months for them to even return to their exercise programs. As counterproductive as that may sound, what can I say? Human nature can be quirky. Don't let this happen to you if you lose control of your appetite this summer. The best advice is to go back to exercise and sensible eating within the week that you return. The longer you delay, the harder it will be for you to get back into the "groove."

Art of compromise

Some highly disciplined people are able to avoid gaining weight even if they go off for long vacations, but they are a rare bunch because it really takes all the motivation you can muster from deep inside of you to exercise and eat sensibly when on holiday. You keep rationalizing you only go on vacation once in a while, you deserve to enjoy yourself, you can burn it all off when you return back home, etc. Sounds familiar?

This internal conversion is a tug-of-war. On one hand, you want to relax and enjoy yourself but, on the other hand, you don't want to return home miserable because you are 10 pounds heavier. To have your cake and eat it, too, you need to use the art of compromise skillfully. Eat a low-calorie breakfast so you can have a higher calorie lunch. Skip the bread and butter they serve before meals at restaurants so you can indulge in the dessert. Drink water instead of sugared iced teas and juices to save on calories for other goodies. Give up something you don't really care about for delicacies that really make your mouth water.

Just like you have a vacation budget, you also have a calorie budget. If you stay within your budget or go just a little beyond, you can enjoy your vacation without coming home with too many unwanted pounds.

Share calories

Low-calorie foods like vegetables and salads (with a low-calorie dressing) are worth eating all by yourself because their high water and fiber content fill up your stomach without enlarging your fat cells. But high-calorie foods like potato chips and chocolate cake are low volume foods that pack a caloric wallop. These are the types of food you should share with a friend or two. Not only does sharing your meal with a friend or loved one save calories, you also get to taste a greater variety of food. Besides, many restaurants and hotels serve portions that are way too large for a single person.

People have told me that at the start of a trip, they are usually shocked at the large amounts being served to them but after a few days, their eyes and stomachs get used to it. That's the danger of trying to finish all the food placed before you by yourself. You quickly get accustomed to the size of the portions. It is much wiser to halve everything you order with your travel companions. If you are still hungry after, you can always order something else.

Walk, walk and walk

You may not be able to join a gym or play your favorite sport on vacation, but you can always use your two feet and walk away the excess calories. You can do this formally by setting aside a specified time to walk for 30-60 minutes or you can do it informally by taking 10-minute walking breaks throughout the day. Walk fast enough to make a difference in calorie burning, but slow enough that you can still enjoy the sights and sounds of your holiday getaway. After all, you are on vacation!

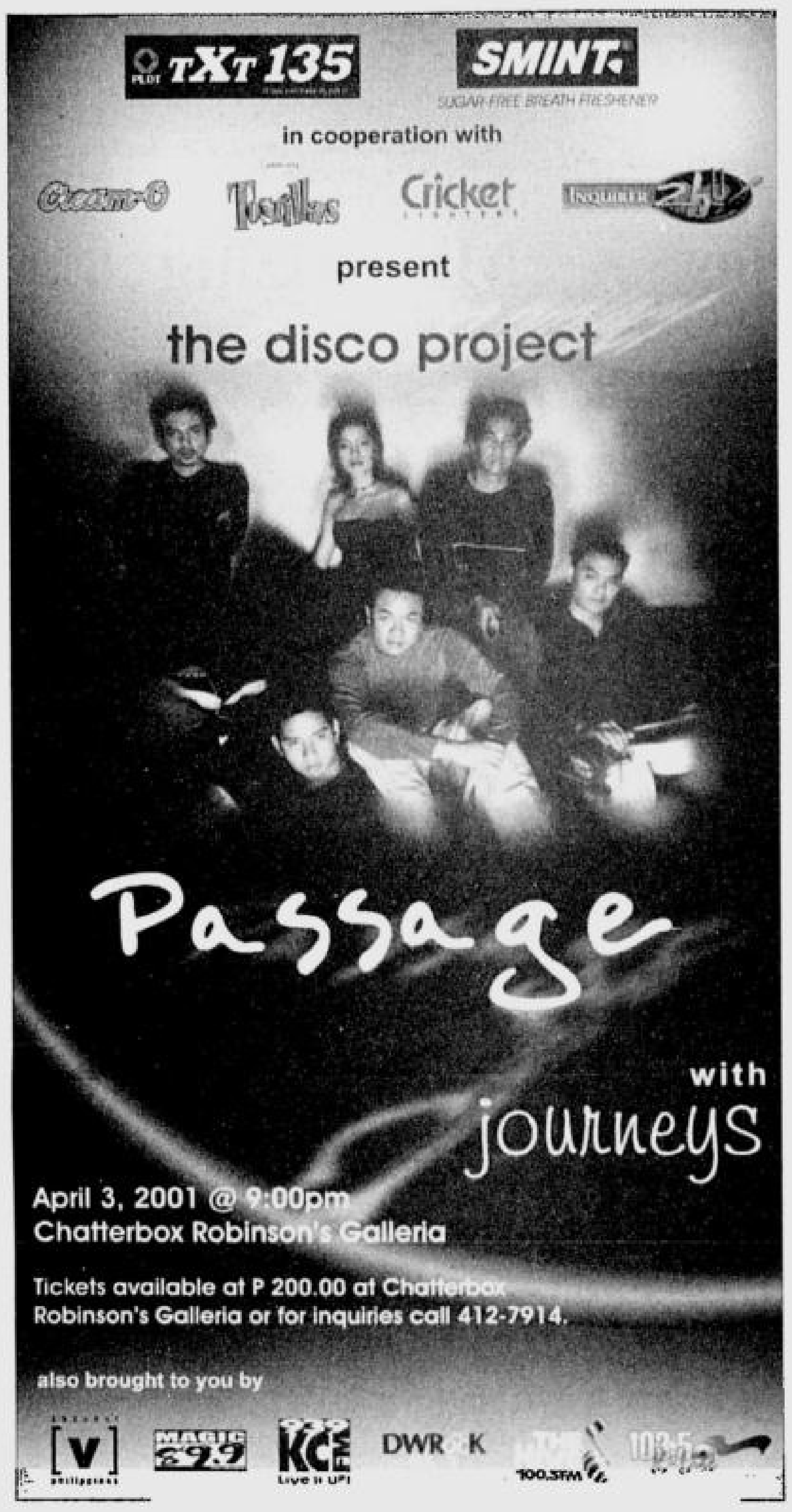
Stay firm

With a little discipline, it is possible to keep your muscles firm while on vacation if you prepare a short exercise routine you can do in your hotel room. I find that rubber bands are the best for this purpose. They are light and don't take up space in your suitcase. A fitness instructor can make an effective and time-efficient workout for you. But if you don't have access to one, you can visit my website to make your own rubber band workout. Choose one exercise per body part (for example, the chest, upper back, arms, etc.). Do at least one set of 12-15 repetitions three times a week. You can buy rubber bands from the hardware store or surgical tubing from drugstores.

Visit a gym

If the hotel you are staying in has a gym, take advantage of this amenity to stay on track with your fitness program. To save yourself time and frustration, ask

MINIMIZING/ p.B10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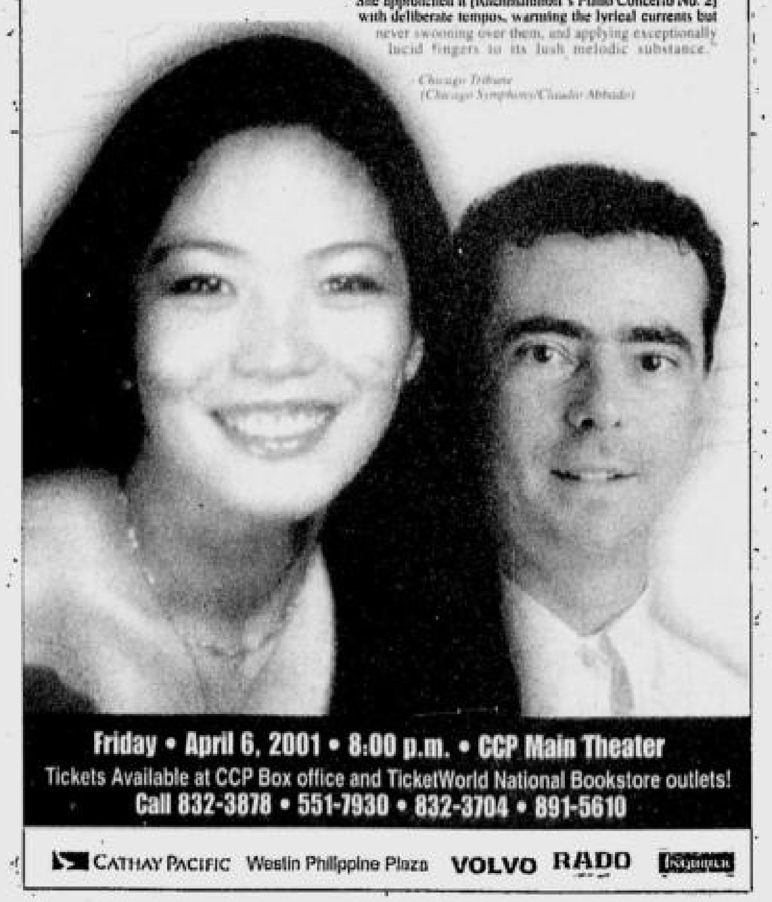
– Chicago Tribune
(Chicago Symphony/Claudio Abbado)

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AA-01-01-PH

Paranormal Services Group of the Institute established

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

DURING the last 20 years, I have rendered numerous paranormal services and advice to many individuals, groups and business establishments. Many times such requests are for mere referral to healers or psychics. At other times, however, they called for actual field work, interviews, diagnosis and evaluation of the problem at hand. Many times these consultancy services are given free of charge. People have not yet gotten used to paying for paranormal services the way they are used to paying doctors, lawyers or management consultants. Even my numerous local TV talks and appearances—where I act as a resource person or authority concerning mysterious or bewildering paranormal events—are seldom paid. This is not the case when I appeared in a Japanese and an Australian documentary film. I was paid like any other professional, which should be the case. I think it is high time that this state of affairs vis-à-vis paranormal or psychic services was changed.

In view of the growing requests I have been getting lately from various quarters for certain intuitive, paranormal, or psychic services, I have decided to formally establish a professional group of intuitive consultants from among the more gifted or physically developed graduates of Inner Mind Development Institute. This will be called either Intuitive or Paranormal Services Group of the Institute.

The objectives of the group are: 1) to render professional consultancy and counseling services to institutional and individual clients in the fields of paranormal and psychic phenomena, alternative or holistic healing and other extraordinary human experiences which are currently considered outside the scope of traditional science and religion; 2) to conduct systematic research, investigation and documentation on the above subjects, and 3) to write articles, journals or books on these subjects.

Some of the paranormal services to be rendered by these intuitive consultants include the following:

- Determining or diagnosing the presence of unseen entities that may be causing disturbances in a place, house, school, office, or factory.
- Cleansing a place or object of negative energies or casting out evil spirits from a place or person.
- Help locate missing persons, victims or relatives.
- Conducting hypnotherapy on clients to overcome unwanted fears, or stopping smoking, drinking, overeating and other bad habits.
- Advising clients on the proper location and orientation of their house or business establishment for health, prosperity and harmony.
- Conducting paranormal healing on clients without the use of drugs, chemicals or any harmful product or practice.
- Rendering psychic or intuitive advice on personnel selection, choice of business partners and similar management decisions.
- Assisting the police or the military in locating or pinpointing suspects, or victims.

Membership in the group will be strictly by invitation only. They will be composed of properly trained individuals, who have shown outstanding paranormal or intuitive abilities in various psychic fields, including healing.

Members will be asked to pledge adherence to a Code of Ethics, any violation of which can disqualify them from the group.

With the establishment of this highly trained professional and ethical group of intuitive consultants, it is hoped that the public will now have a reliable professional and authoritative source of help in this field.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday at 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA. Starting April 03, 2001, and every Tuesday thereafter, Doc Nicky will take time off from his busy schedule to answer all your questions regarding MEDICard services.

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to learn more about our services and allow you to get your maximum benefits

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

A question and answer guide through the basic services of MEDICard

What is an HMO and what is MEDICard?

HMO is a system providing comprehensive healthcare to subscribers and dependents in exchange of predetermined fees. The prepaid fees, otherwise known as membership fees, cover treatments that are availed of within the program. Additionally, the system stresses preventive medical care. Thus reducing the incidence of serious health problems in the future. As enrollees in the program, members may need only to go to an accredited health institution for treatment, diagnosis, or preventive care and be assured of the attendance of a doctor who will consequently manage the member's case

MEDICard is an HMO that offers comprehensive health program for its members. This includes hospital confinement benefits, outpatient, preventive health care and emergency services. Associated with MEDICard are over 3,000 accredited doctors, dentists and specialists, operating out of over 250 hospitals. MEDICard goes much further than just paying hospital and medical bills. It really does care for its members. Hospitalized members receive a visit from MEDICard's Liaison Officer. He will even process the necessary papers including Philhealth/Medicare benefits. This allows the patient to relax and concentrate on recovery. Operating 24 hrs each and every day, MEDICard provides quality health care service nationwide

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr Robinzon D.Fernandez is an Internal Med. Specialist at Medical City General Hospital. He is a graduate of the University of Sto Tomas and had been with MEDICard for the past 4 years already. Outside of medicine, Doc Robinzon loves to travel and read books. For consultation, you can visit him at Medical Plaza beside Medical City. Clinic schedule is T – TH, 9:00AM – 12:00 NN. Or visit him at the MEDICard Satellite Clinic in Medical City every Wednesday, 9:00AM – 12:00NN

Dr. Cecilia Vicencio is one of our OB –GYNE at Medical City and has been with MEDICard's Medical Service Team for five years. Aside from her hectic routine of hospital work, she still finds time to attend to her hobby which is cartooning. According to her, she's been drawing since she was in gradeschool. She's married to Mr. Gallahad Vicencio and they have two boys. If you want to avail of her services, you can visit her at Rm 308 of the MEDICO Bldg, Medical City. Her clinic hours are MWF 10:00AM – 12:00NN

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. 11V Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com

ISO grants Select pillows world-class status

FIBERFILL Manufacturing Inc., the makers of quality non-wovens (paddings, stuffings and fillings for clothing, footwear, toys, pillows, beddings, fashion accessories, including Select Comfort Pillows), has been recognized with an ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9002 certification, the industry's seal of world-class standards.

Select Comfort, with its commitment to excellence and market leadership, has always been a prime mover in the industry. Its continuing effort for excellence, both in the quality of its products and professional services, has yielded the recognition from the ISO.

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WATER HEATERS

Minimizing . . .

(From page B9)

your fitness instructor to give you a copy of your workout program with alternatives for every exercise. The hotel gym may not have the same equipment that you are used to. Prepare for this and you won't get frustrated.

Correct vacation attitude

The correct attitude is one of moderation. You shouldn't be obsessed about every calorie nor should you be absolutely careless about what goes into your mouth. Enjoy yourself but balance things out so that you won't have any regrets when you return home.

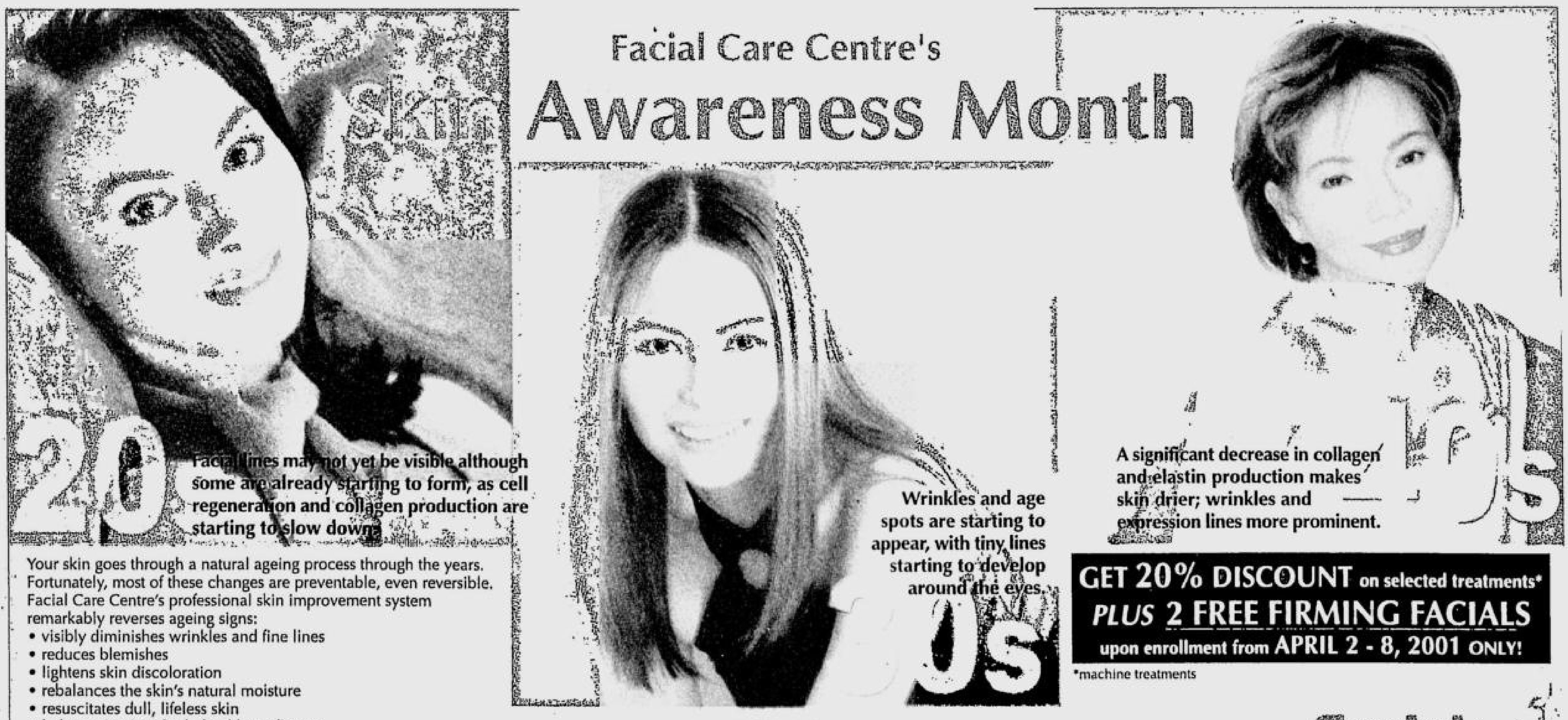
* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Fitness Seminar on April 28 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman. Personal training: Abdominal Exercise Variations, Training for a Marathon, Post Knee Surgery Exercises. Aerobics: Latin Step, Kickboxing, Exercises for Hips, Buttocks and Thighs, High-Low Jazz. Fitness management: Taxation, Making Projections, Performance Evaluations and Ethical Business Practices. Fitness enthusiasts: How Weightlifting Can Make You Stronger and Slimmer, Beginner's Weightlifting Program. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Phils. will hold its 10th annual convention on April 28 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The theme is "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle for the Older Adult." Call 521-9123, 303-1142 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com.

For past articles or exercises, visit my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com


Facial Care Centre's
Skin Awareness Month
20s
Facial lines may not yet be visible although some are already starting to form, as cell regeneration and collagen production are starting to slow down.
30s
Wrinkles and age spots are starting to appear, with tiny lines starting to develop around the eyes.
40s
A significant decrease in collagen and elastin production makes skin drier; wrinkles and expression lines more prominent.

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